Hana to Yume COMICS

THE SCARLET CHAIR

VOLUME 2

MIDORIKAWA Yuki

This is a completely fictional work. Any similarities to actual people, stories, and groups are purely coincidental.

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THE SCARLET CHAIR
ACT 4

"Hey, you..."

"What's your name?"

Gugh
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
THAT'S BLOOD
Rustle

IS IT OK IF I COME OVER?
THAT'S A NASTY WOUND
...
THE WOUND IS SUPPURATING IT WON'T CLOSE UP LIKE THAT
MAY I TOUCH IT?
Whishhh
SWOOSH

YOUR WOUND WILL, TOO
...GET DIRTY
...
HSSJM
...
YOUR HAND IS HOT.
YOU PROBABLY HAVE A FEVER.
...
WRAP WRAP
cough cough cough
LIE DOWN
IT'LL BE BETTER IF YOU SLEEP A WHILE
cough cough
...

I'M AFRAID...
LIKE THIS...
THAT BY MYSELF.
...SLEEPING
...
POT
WSSHHH
IF I CAN'T WAKE UP AGAIN
...DON'T WORRY.
I'LL BE HERE FOR A WHILE.
...IS THAT SO...
THAT MUST BE PAINFUL.

Bazon Capital

I THINK THIS ONE IS MORE SUITABLE IT'S EASIER TO MATCH HAIRSTYLES AND THE LIKE WITH IT
HUH?
IS THIS DRESS ALL RIGHT?
FOR TODAY'S ATTIRE,
KNOCK KNOCK
SETSU-SAMA, WE'RE COMING IN.
SETSU-SAMA?
SETSU-SAMA!
WHERE ARE YOU?

THE SKY IS SO BLUE...
My precious childhood friend, Luca...
He originally lived in a small, poor village called Niolz, far away from the capital.
Five years ago, in order to succeed the throne, he went on a journey
But, when I came to see King Lucaria,
I actually...

...saw another person.
I DIDN'T THINK THAT, APART FROM ME, THERE WAS ACTUALLY ANOTHER FAN OF LUCA
Gasp
Rustle
USUALLY HIS MOVEMENTS ARE QUICK AND ALERT,
BUT WHEN HE'S WALKING BY HIMSELF, HE'S DULL AND DISPIRITED...
using the name of "Lucaria," has been protecting the king's throne all this time.
And because of this he went missing. In place of Luca, this person
IT'S HIS MAJESTY
On his journey, Luca was ambushed by the Bean Family.

WISH
WHACK
WHUM
!
WHO IS IT?!
OW!
THAT HURTS!
...
SO IT'S YOU, SETSU
RUDE
... YOU WANNA KILL ME?
I CAN'T CONTROL MY REFLEXES! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DON'T DO ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS AROUND ME
ALSO WHAT KIND OF GETUP ARE YOU IN?

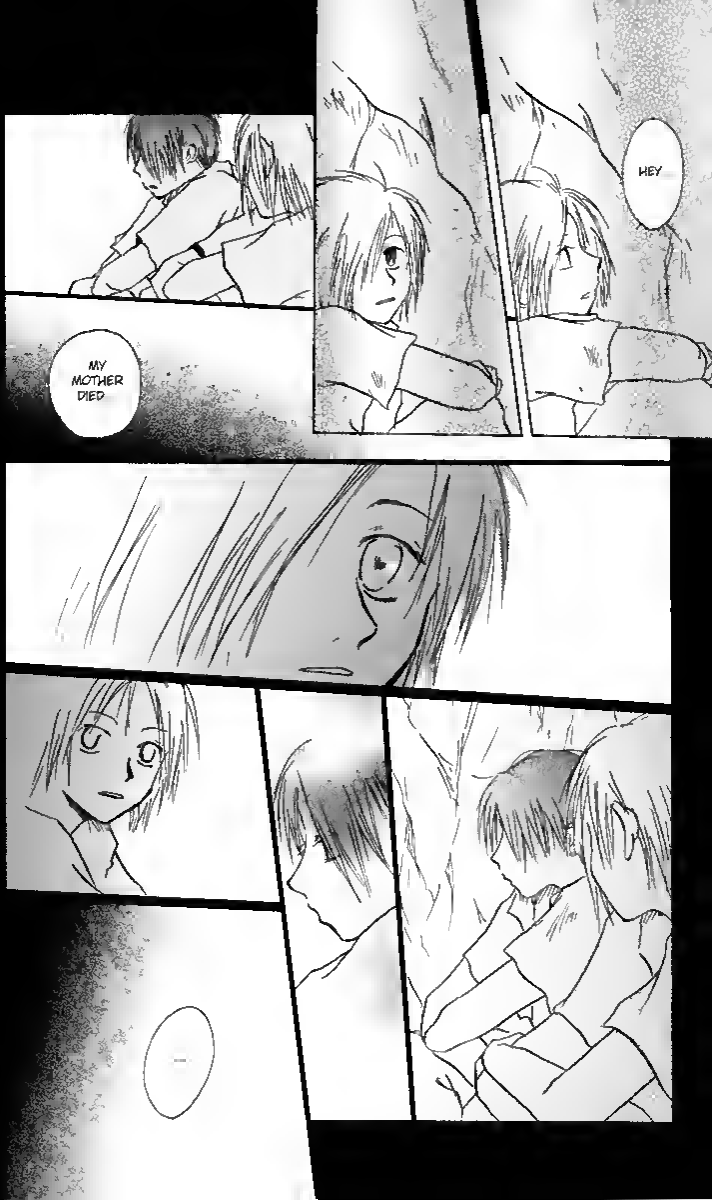
YOU ARE AFTER ALL, STAYING AT THE CASTLE AS THE KING'S GUEST,
SO YOU SHOULD AT LEAST LOOK THE PART!
THEN I'D RATHER WEAR THE UNIFORM FOR A GUARD OR A FEMALE SERVANT
They're shorter too
ALTHOUGH I LIKE FORMAL DRESSES TOO IT'S REALLY TOO HARD TO MOVE AROUND IN THEM
Sigh.
YOU WANT TO LET "LUCARIA" LOSE FACE?
BRINGING UP THAT NAME IS TOO SLY!
THAT'S ENOUGH! HURRY UP AND GO CHANGE!
Rustle
Rustle
DAMM-IT
ALL RIGHT! I'LL JUST GO CHANGE
THERE ARE STAIRS IN THIS CASTLE, SETSU.
Please be sure to make use of them.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN MY ROOM
CAN WE TALK FOR A BIT?

Step Step
OK
YOUR MAJESTY, LUCARIA
KAZUNA
STOP NAGGING ABOUT EVERY LITTLE THING!
I HAVEN'T EVEN SAID A FIFTH OF THE THINGS I WANT TO SAY!
YOU'RE STILL SO EASY TO SCARE
AS THE KING YOU NEED TO BE MORE MAJESTIC AND CALM
LATELY, IT SEEMS VERY LIVELY INSIDE THE CASTLE
ALTHOUGH THE CELEBRATION IS ALMOST HERE, THIS IS DUE TO SETSU'S PRESENCE, HUH?

I ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR MAJESTY
NO.
YOU DON'T LIKE HOW I'M KEEPING SETSU IN THE CASTLE?
NOT SATISFIED?
EVEN THOUGH I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING NICE
IS THAT SO? IT'S JUST THAT YOUR MAJESTY LIKES TO PICK AT SMALL THINGS
WHAT AN OBNOXIOUS WAY OF PUTTING IT.
OH' THIS REALLY IS GOOD
THE KITCHENS MADE SOMETHING GOOD

YEAH...
"Setsu."

SETSU
patter
LUCA
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU SLEEP HERE
IT'S GOING TO RAIN
Drip
Drop
Drip
OH!
HOW BOTHER-SOME THE RAIN WON'T STOP
SHHHH


HEY
MY MOTHER DIED
...

When we parted,

Luca, until the end, still did not cry.

he said, while smiling, that as long as Setsu was there, it would be all right.

DID I GET LOST?
HUH?
Step
Step
IT'S SO BIG IT'S SIMPLY A WASTE
I think I've been back to the same spot
Step
MISS.
YOU'RE REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
WILL YOU LET ME DRAW YOUR PORTRAIT?
IT'LL BE DONE IMMEDIATELY

Heh heh
OF COURSE.
YOU CAN ACTUALLY TELL THAT I'M A WOMAN
YOU ARE AN ARTIST?
YES I DRAW PORTRAITS
I HAVE BEEN HERE SEVERAL TIMES IN ORDER TO DRAW THE NEW KING.
BUT HE KEEPS SAYING THAT THE TIME S NOT APPROPRIATE AND IN THE END HE DOESN'T LET ANYONE DRAW PORTRAITS OF HIM
IS THAT SO ?
HE'S VERY HAND-SOME, ISN'T HE?
BUT DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I IMAGINED

THE FORMER KING'S SON WAS BORN AS A NORMAL CITIZEN
AS THE LAST OF THE MONARCHY, HIS LIFE WAS POOR AND DIFFICULT IN ONE PERIOD
BUT HE STILL POSSESSED A PAIR OF AMBITIOUS EYES THAT'S WHAT I ORIGINALLY IMAGINED
BUT HE'S JUST LIKE A DOLL
THOSE EYES ARE NOT THE EYES OF A KING
IT'S THE EYES OF SOMEONE WHO HAS GIVEN HIMSELF WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO WORK FOR A MASTER
ISN'T THAT VERY INTERESTING?
NO MATTER WHAT, I MUST DRAW HIM!

Hello, everyone. This is Midorikawa here, and this is my seventh published volume. Lucky number seven!

Although I can almost write like usual, no matter how many times I do this, I am still as happy and nervous.

Whether it's people reading my books for the first time or people who always have been supporting me, I am still extremely thankful to all of you. This is the second volume of The scarlet chair. I have also run out of things I can write here, so if you have anything you want to know or anything you wish for me to write about, please tell me.

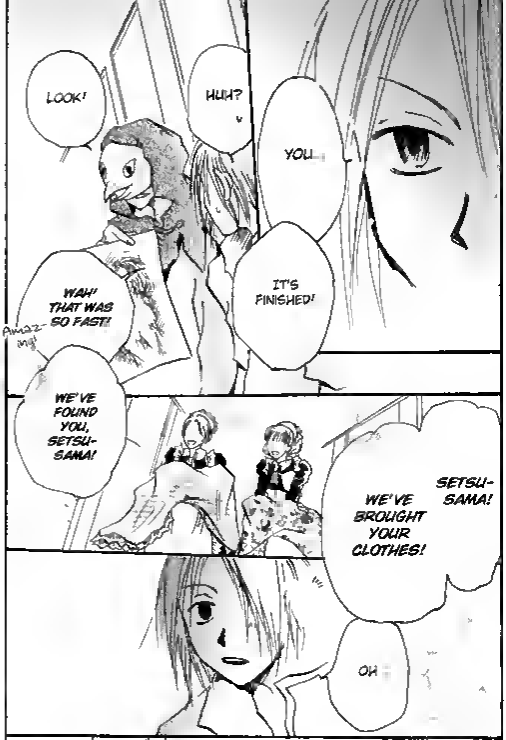
All right, all right! I also have to thank the people who wrote in to suggest what type of topic they wish for me to write about.

- A love story (to put the main attention here!)
- A murder case (Oh!)
- Something sci-fi (If it's something similar to sci-fi, then I definitely hope I can draw it someday.)

So, which kind do you all like? After receiving so many suggestions, I want to try writing about everything.

That's why I'm using these as references. I'm currently brainstorming with the main editor.

Although I act slow, I will work hard to hurry up and draw faster. I really hope to draw works without monologues or ones that'll let me think carefully and slowly draw it out.



AN ARTIST WEARING A MASK?
HIS MAJESTY REJECTED ALL ARTISTS
SO WE'RE NOT TOO SURE EITHER.
IS THAT SO?
Sensei-sama dresses like this really suits you!
But that one also said this one.
I WONDER IF HE'S STILL IN THE CASTLE
step

...hasn't even seen this castle...
On the journey toward the capital,
Luca, he...
THIS CASTLE IS REALLY BIG!
with a body that he could not move
while being heavily injured,
he was left behind under the small bridge.
He— is he really still alive?
...there was another kind-hearted person,
of hope...

who saved him.
IT FEELS LIKE AGES SINCE WE TALKED LIKE THIS, JUST THE TWO OF US
YEAH.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE AVOIDING ME.
YOUR MAJESTY?
KAZUNA, I WANT TO MAKE SURE OF SOMETHING.
IN MY CONVERSATION WITH SETSU,
THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULDN'T EXPLAIN ALL THIS TIME.

... ONE DAY, HE WOULD DEFINITELY RETURN TO THAT VILLAGE
ONCE, WHILE YOU WEREN'T THERE, HE TOLD ME THAT...
HE ALSO SAID THAT HE LEFT BEHIND "SOMETHING IMPORTANT."
WHY WOULD HE BE WILLING TO LEAVE BEHIND SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT, ONLY TO START ON A JOURNEY?
DID HE REALLY START OFF TOWARD THE CAPITAL WILLINGLY?
IF IT WAS YOU,
IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE DECEASED KING'S ORDERS,
WHO USED SOMETHING TO THREATEN HIM SO YOU COULD BRING HIM HERE,

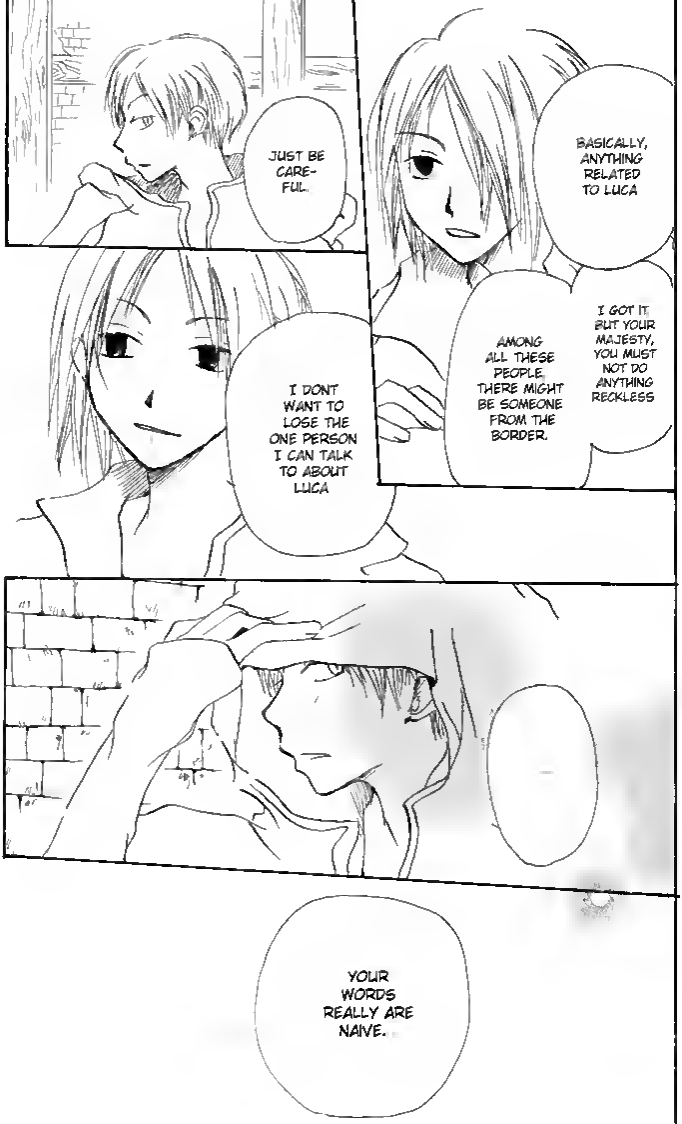
THEN YOU'RE LUCA'S ENEMY.
KAZUNA-SAMA,
YOU'RE HERE
SOMEONE FROM THE ROYAL GUARDS IS LOOKING FOR YOU.
YOUR MAJESTY,
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS ANOTHER DAY.

SETSU,
YOU HEARD ALL OF THAT, RIGHT?
YES
RUSTLE
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW.
EVEN IF IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF KAZUNA,
WHY . .
WOULD LUCA WANT TO SUCCEED THE THRONE?

HIS MOTHER WAS BANISHED TO A POOR VILLAGE, WHERE SHE FELL SICK AND DIED.
BACK THEN THE MONARCHY ABANDONED THEM
IN THE END, JUST BECAUSE HE'S THE LAST MEMBER OF THE ROYALTY,
BECAUSE OF HIS BLOOD RELATION THEY TOLD HIM TO SUCCEED THE THRONE. DID HE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND WILLINGLY ACCEPT IT? IS LUCA THIS KIND OF PERSON?
PERHAPS, HE
...SIMPLY
...DECIDED TO BE THE KING FOR THIS COUNTRY.
BUT,
IF HE ACTUALLY INTENDED TO TAKE REVENGE ON THE SCHEMING BAJI FAMILY
...OR THE ROYALTY FOR ABANDONING HIM AND HIS MOTHER
BY HEADING TOWARD THIS CASTLE,
THEN, BEFORE LUCA EVEN RETURNS,
I WILL CARRY OUT HIS WISH FOR HIM.

SETSU,
I WANT TO FIND OUT WHO'S LUCA'S ENEMY.
THAT WAY, IF LUCA'S STILL ALIVE,
WE CAN PROBABLY DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS.
Luca...
Why did he go on that journey?
...and his true intentions

I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A COMMONER, ANYWAY.
WITHOUT A KING'S ATTIRE, NO ONE WILL NOTICE
CHATTER
CHATTER
IS IT OK FOR YOUR MAJESTY TO BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME
FOR THE FESTIVAL, ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE GATHERED IN THE CAPITAL, GIVING US AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLECT INFORMATION.
REGARDING THE ROYALTY
THE BAJI FAMILY,
THE BAJI ASSASSIN,
THE BOY WITH DARK-COLORED HAIR AND EYES,
AND HIS MOTHER.


JUST BE CARE-FUL.
BASICALLY, ANYTHING RELATED TO LUCA
I GOT IT. BUT YOUR MAJESTY, YOU MUST NOT DO ANYTHING RECKLESS
AMONG ALL THESE PEOPLE, THERE MIGHT BE SOMEONE FROM THE BORDER.
I DONT WANT TO LOSE THE ONE PERSON I CAN TALK TO ABOUT LUCA
YOUR WORDS REALLY ARE NAIVE.

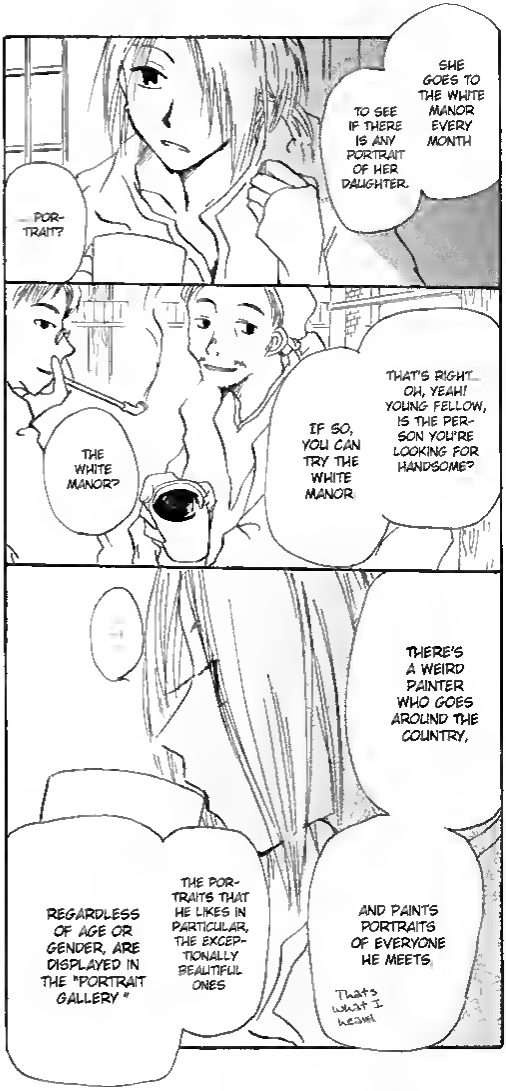
OH—
SO, YOUNG FELLOW, YOU'RE TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE?
YUP!
BUT I HAVEN'T GOT ANY LEADS
IN TIMES LIKE THESE,
YOU PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE GIVEN UP WHEN HE WENT MISSING
YEAH
IT GRIEVES ME TO SEE GRANNY PEDRO
YEAH DIDN'T HER DAUGHTER DISAPPEAR WITH SOME GUY?

The Plot

A couple of readers asked me about how the plot was arranged and how I came up with the story. Right now, I'm going to talk a little bit about it.

Generally, ideas for the story surface in my mind while I take walks. These eventually evolve into words or lines, background images, and etc. Ideas of flower, snow, sounds, the color red, and so forth. Ideas of flower, snow, sounds, the color red, and the like flowed into my mind until one day, these ideas suddenly overlap and come together to form a single cohesive picture. I jot all of it down on paper before it fades away. The most important is capturing this energy. I enjoy this feeling. Essentially, that's how it happens.

This is a rather outrageous way to put it. Instead of saying that the ideas grew out of one idea, it makes more sense to say that once one idea is stimulated, other ideas naturally connect to it, forming an overall direction. Lately, I don't have the leisure to allow ideas to surface naturally. I have to grab the premature ideas and then devote my energy to polishing them.


SHE GOES TO THE WHITE MANOR EVERY MONTH
TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY PORTRAIT OF HER DAUGHTER.
POR-TRAIT?
THAT'S RIGHT. OH, YEAH! YOUNG FELLOW, IS THE PER-SON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HANDSOME?
IF SO, YOU CAN TRY THE WHITE MANOR.
THE WHITE MANOR?
THERE'S A WEIRD PAINTER WHO GOES AROUND THE COUNTRY,
AND PAINTS PORTRAITS OF EVERYONE HE MEETS.
That's what I heard.
THE POR-TRAITS THAT HE LIKES IN PARTICULAR, THE EXCEP-TIONALLY BEAUTIFUL ONES
REGARDLESS OF AGE OR GENDER, ARE DISPLAYED IN THE "PORTRAIT GALLERY."

THE GRANNY STILL WANTS TO AT LEAST KNOW WHETHER HER DAUGHTER IS ALIVE OR NOT.
EVEN THOUGH THIS HOPE IS TRANSLUCENT AS THE CLOUDS, UNRELIABLE AS IT IS,
...THEN THAT PERSON MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE SOMEWHERE IN THIS COUNTRY.
IN OTHER WORDS, IF THERE'S A PORTRAIT OF THE PERSON YOU ARE LOOKING FOR,...
BECAUSE THERE'S A LOT OF PROVOCATIVE PAINTINGS IN THERE.
PROVOCATIVE?
EXCEPT FOR THE OWNER OF THE MANOR AND THAT PAINTER, NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO ENTER THAT GALLERY.
HMM? BUT LATELY ...
THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE NOBILITIES OVER THIS MATTER.
THE PAINTINGS REVEALS THEIR FAMILY TREE AND WHO'RE ON GOOD TERMS WITH WHO AND SO FORTH
THE RICH AND POWERFUL ALWAYS HAVE SO MANY PROBLEMS
I WANT TO SEE!
HOW TO PUT THIS... THE PAINTER PAINTS PORTRAITS
BUT HIS PORTRAITS INCLUDE IMPORTANT AND POWERFUL FIGURES IN THE NOBILITY.
HEH, HEH
YOUNG FELLOW,
THEY'RE NOT THOSE KINDS OF PAINTINGS

WAH HA HA!
IT'S NOT SOMETHING COMMONERS LIKE US CAN UNDERSTAND
PAINTER
HMM
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
DOES THIS PAINTER WEAR A MASK?
I DON'T KNOW I ONLY KNOW HE'S WEIRD
SO LATELY HE'S BEEN HANGING AROUND THE CAPITAL
RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE REALLY WANTS TO PAINT A PORTRAIT OF HIS MAJESTY
THANKS
"You are really beautiful"
The Portrait Gallery
Anyone he meets, huh
Paints
"If there's a portrait of the person you're looking for..."

"... then that person might still be alive somewhere-"
I HAVEN'T UNCOVERED ANY INFORMATION REGARDING LUCA...
CHATTER CHATTER
ONCE I MENTION THE BAJI FAMILY OR THE ROYAL FAMILY EVERYONE BECOMES QUIET...
I WONDER HOW SETSU IS DOING ON HER END
CHATTER CHATTER

CHANTIER
CHANTIER
CRAP!
FWOOSH

?!
YOUR MAJESTY ?
!
GRAB
THUNK

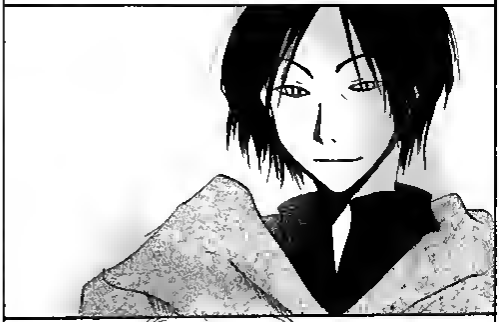
LET GO! YOU INSOLENT WRETCH!
YOUR M—
OH, MY
FORGIVE ME FOR MY RUDENESS
YOUR MAJESTY, LUCARIA.

I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE, YOUR MAJESTY
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS YOU
ONCE WE EXCHANGED GLANCES, YOU TRIED TO RUN AWAY,
SO I MISTOOK YOU FOR A LOWLY THIEF
JUDGING FROM THE WAY YOU'RE DRESSED
ARE YOU OUT SURVEYING THE CITY?
THAT'S RIGHT!
SO WHEN I SAW YOU,
I STARTED RUNNING AWAY TO AVOID HAVING MY COVER BLOWN
I DON'T SEE KAZUNA-SAMA
WHAT A RARE OCCASION!
DID YOU TWO FIGHT?

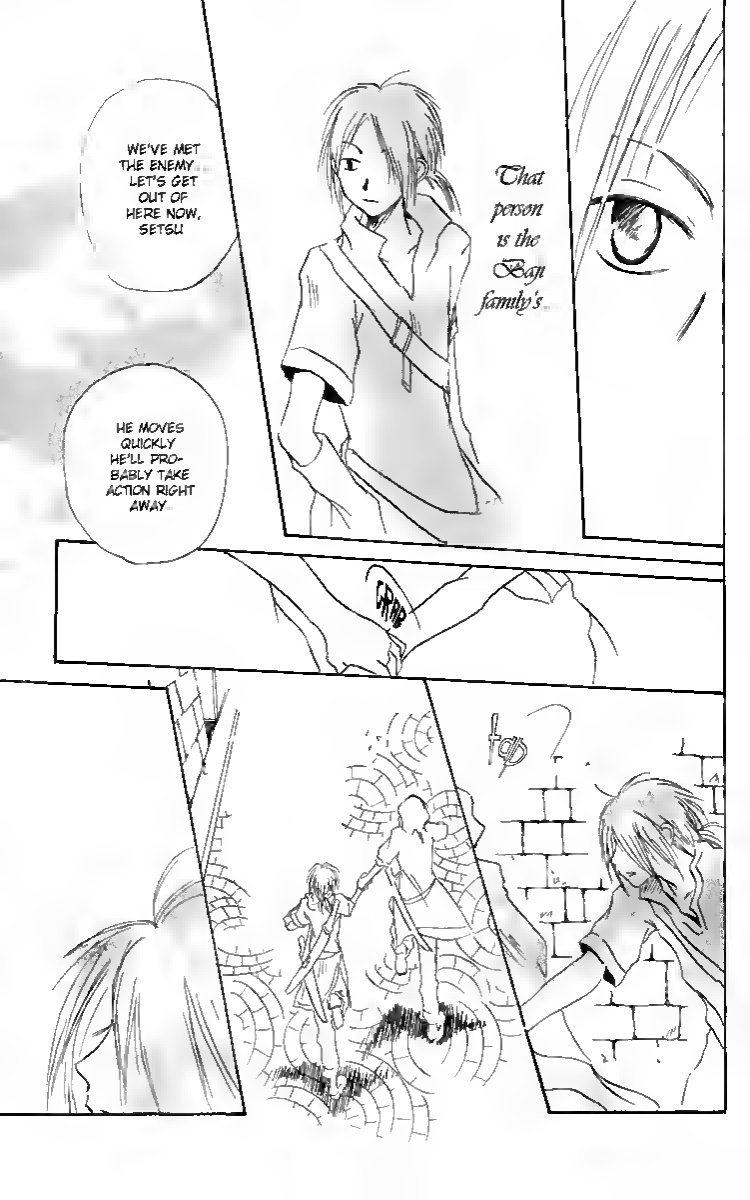
Starting from ACT 6, I have a new editor To my original editor Mr T,

When I just started, you told me, "I enjoy a good love story, so I want to be in charge of this manga" I'm really thankful for your genuine words of encouragement. The joint effort between you and the manga artist in producing the work made me fall deeply in love with your unwavering passion toward achieving the goal Just saying this isn't enough! In order to earn your respect, I always put in my best effort into my work Your strict, yet sincere words made me really enjoy working with you You're direct, hard-working, capable, and at the same time, so full of emotions. You constantly show a sensitive and adorable side. I'm really grateful that you worked so extensively with me despite being so busy You helped me understand the joy of gradually learning to draw things I've never drawn before. I will continue to work hard so that one day, you'll respect and admire me as much as I respect and admire you

Thank you



HER EYES ARE SHARP
IT'LL PROBABLY BE TOUGH IF MY SISTER HAD TO COMPETE WITH YOU.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
Ha Ha
OH, MY BAD!
I'LL BE ON MY WAY THERE'S A FRIEND I HAVE TO MEET.
YOUR MAJESTY, THE CITY HAS BEEN QUITE CHAOTIC LATELY
WHAT AN ANNOYING MAN
OH, THE BAJI FAMILY'S SECOND GENERATION LEADER, NAGI.
PLEASE BE EXTRA CAREFUL.
YOUR MAJESTY
THAT PERSON IS...?


WE'VE MET THE ENEMY... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE NOW, SETSU.
That person is the Bagi family's
HE MOVES QUICKLY HE'LL PROBABLY TAKE ACTION RIGHT AWAY...

Whoosh
...
...
...
...
Whisper
Whisper
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BRING SOMEONE LIKE HIM ... TO THE CAPITAL? YOUR MAJESTY LUCIA?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO...
I CAN'T ...
....JUST LEAVE HIM BY HIMSELF.

...
BESIDES,
I'LL NEED HIS HELP
...
THE WIND IS SO NOISY
...
Whoosh

Whoosh
Please don't drown out Luca's voice!
YOUR MAJESTY LUCARIA.
YOUR MAJES-TY
YOU HAVE A FEVER AGAIN.
IT'S RAINING TODAY AND VERY QUIET OUTSIDE.
PLE SE GET SOME REST.
DON'T WORRY, YOUR MAJESTY
I'M HERE WITH YOU.

tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
THEY ARE HERE!
WhO
OSh
"I'll definitely protect you."

SWISH
SWING
SLASH
THESE GUYS SUCK
THAT BASTARD PROBABLY WENT AROUND GIVING MONEY TO THUGS
Pant
Pant
No Patience
BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM.
ALL RIGHT! SETSU, GO
JUST LEAVE THEM TO ME
CALM DOWN, YOUR MAJESTY IT'S ALL RIGHT
WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M HERE FOR?

WHOOSH
!
SHAN
YOUR MAJESTY!
AH!
CRASH
CRAP
CLANG

KAZUNA!
YOU...

SWOOSH
I'M AMAZED
YOU HAD A HARD TIME JUST DEALING WITH THOSE GUYS, AND YET YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO SNAP AT ME?
...
HE'S REALLY STRONG.
EVEN DORII CAN'T COMPETE WITH HIM...
YOU ARE SO STRONG, KAZUNA.

SO WHAT IF I'M STRONG?
IT AMOUNTS TO NOTHING IF I CAN'T EVEN PROTECT YOU
Hush
KAZUNA
WHO'S YOUR MASTER?
IS IT THE FORMER KING?
OR LUCA?

YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU SEE FIT.
I'M THE ONE WHO GOT YOU INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE THRONE AND STRIPPED AWAY YOUR FREEDOM
I WILL PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU'RE SO SLY.
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION AT ALL.

HUH?
YOUR MAJESTY?!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
AND... WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?!
OH, THIS
Hurry up and get changed!
Let me go! I can walk by myself!
Jeez, what are you doing in this outfit?
Go changing yourself

IF THAT PERSON'S DEAD, THEN IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING
BUT, EVEN IF HE'S STILL ALIVE...
NO MATTER WHAT, I WON'T BE FORGIVEN. ISN'T THAT HOW IT IS?
WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE A CLEAR ANSWER?
UNLESS YOU...

...I'M STILL AT FAULT FOR LEAVING HIM THERE WOUNDED AND UN-ATTENDED...
BUT...
HIS MAJESTY FINALLY STARTED THINKING FOR HIM-SELF.
BEFORE ....
HE COULDN'T TRUST ANYONE OR ANYTHING.
SO HE WAS AFRAID TO REFLECT ON MAT-TERS...
IT MUST BE BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE, SETSU.

PLEASE HELP HIS MAJESTY.
I WILL.
KAZUNA... YOU WILL, TOO.
YES.
Luca...
The people who need you...
...gave me strength.

I will go!
I will definitely find you!
YOUR MAJESTY, DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WHITE MANOR?
I WANT TO GO THERE TO SEE THE PORTRAIT GALLERY.
In order to find out what you truly want.

The Scarlet Chair

by Midorikawa Yuki

Brought to you by

Dragon Voice

(http://dragonvoice.org)

The Credits:

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Snowfreak & Kaori

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Other works by MIDORIKAWA Yuki

Hana to Yume COMICS

Akaku Saku Koe Vol. 1-3
Atsui Hibi
Hiiro no Isu Vol. 1-2
Hotarubi no Mori E

Hana to Yume COMICS

THE SCARLET CHAIR

MIDORIKAWA Yuki 2

Hana to Yume COMICS

THE SCARLET CHAIR (2)

MIDORIKAWA Yuki

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Hana to Yume COMICS

SUMMARY

Setsu is looking for her childhood friend Luca, who went missing after he was attacked by an assassin. She's helped by King Lucaria, who's taken over the throne for Luca, but neither of them knows yet whether Luca is even still alive... Then King Lucaria asks Setsu to remain in the castle?! The second volume of this mysterious fantasy!!

Serialized in LALA
Hakusensha

SUMMARY

Setsu is looking for her childhood friend Luca, who went missing after he was attacked by an assassin on his way to the capital, Bazen. She's helped by King Lucalia, who's taken over the throne for Luca, but neither of them knows yet whether Luca is even still alive... Then King Lucaria, whom the Baji family are trying to assassinate, asks Setsu to remain in the castle. What's he up to...?!

HIIRU NO ISU

THE SCARLET CHAIR

ACT 5

WELL
I ONLY KNOW HE'S THE LAST OF THE ROYAL LINE
Yeah
KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM?
THE NEW KING LUCARIA?
HUH
"OUT OF COMPASSION,"
SEEMS LIKE HE WAS LIVING A POOR, RURAL LIFESTYLE, BUT OUT OF COMPASSION, HE WAS BROUGHT BACK TO THE CASTLE TO SUCCEED THE THRONE
THE FORMER KING'S CHILD BY THE CONCUBINE,
Akaku Saku Koe, Atsui Hibi, and Hotaruhi no Mori e.
These comics are also out Please try picking them up if you can

WHAT, JIN? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TAKING THE THRONE?
YOU'RE KIDDING! IT'S JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY
YOU... I HEARD YOU TURNED DOWN THE BAJI'S REQUEST?
THAT'S NOT GOOD YOU SHOULD HURRY AND APOLOGIZE
OTHERWISE YOU'LL BECOME A TRAITOR AND BE CHASED DOWN
FROM THE BEGINNING, I ONLY DID THOSE THINGS TO HONE MY SKILLS
BESIDES, HAVING SKILLED PURSUERS AS MY OPPONENT SEEMS INTERESTING
SERIOUSLY?
I'VE ALSO NEVER LIKED THE BAJI
IT'S ABOUT TIME
IS THAT SO?

THAT'S TOO BAD, DORII JIN
...
YOU COULD HAVE JUST POISONED ME, IDIOT.
IF I KILL YOU WITH MY SWORD, MY REPUTATION WILL ALSO IMPROVE
THAT LEFT HAND OF YOURS DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO HOLD A SWORD
I WONDER.
YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY, RIGHT?
SCCC

SWOOSH
!
SPLATTER

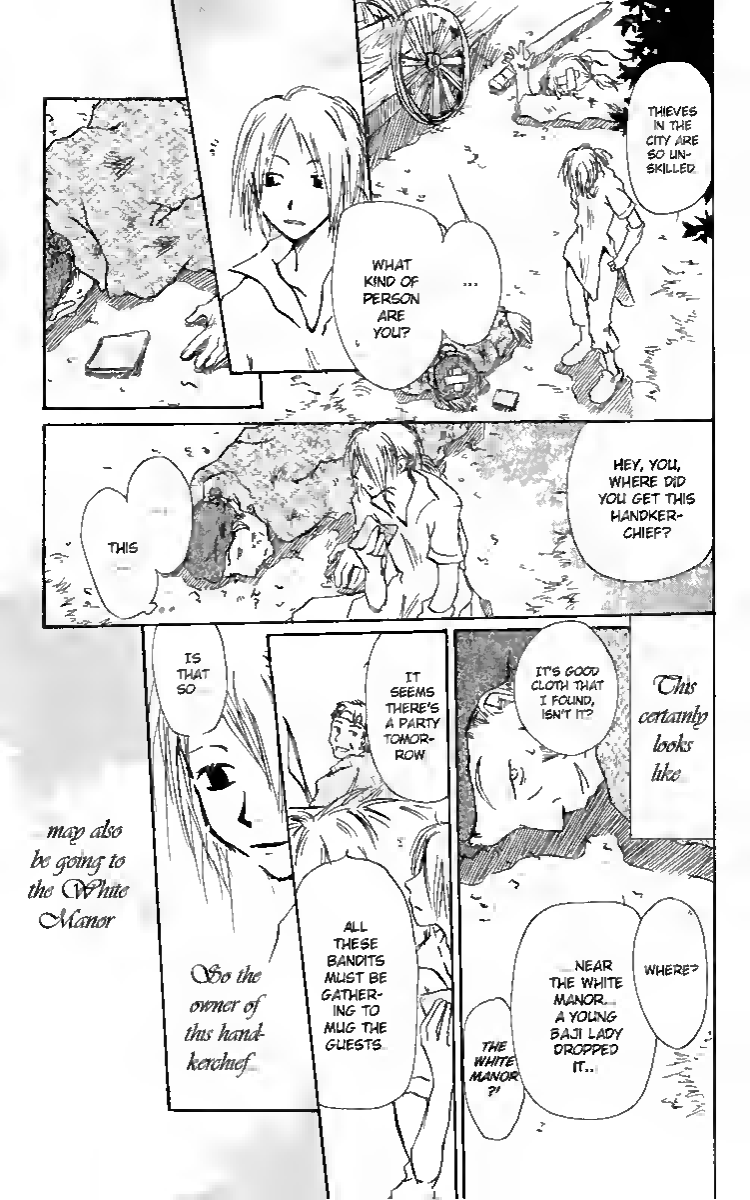
Capital Bazen
EH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SETSU?
THE WHITE MANOR
OVER-RULED
EHHH?! WHY?
THE WHITE MANOR BELONGS TO THE BAJI FAMILY MOREOVER, THE OWNER'S LORD NAGI
IT IS, SO TO SPEAK, ENEMY TERRI-TORY.
NAGI...
THAT PERSON, HUH?

BUT YOU'RE THE ONE THEY'RE AFTER, YOUR MAJESTY
THAT'S WHY I'LL BE ALL RIGHT
DON'T WORRY
I'LL BE SURE TO RETURN, SO PLEASE LET ME GO, YOUR MAJESTY
IT'S ODD, ISN'T IT?
ONLY AFTER WE LEFT THE VILLAGE DID LUCA TELL ME THE NAME "SETSU"
HM?
I WASN'T EVEN SURE IF THERE REALLY WAS A PERSON CALLED SETSU IN THAT VILLAGE
BUT SETSU,
I THINK I CAN TRUST YOU.

not even once...
did Luca talk to me
WHAT THIS? YOU'RE BEING UNUSUALLY HONEST.
But certainly,
...HURRY IT UP IF YOU'RE GONNA GO!
about this boy's existence...
or even mention his name...
WE COULD HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER BEFORE IN THE VILLAGE,
BUT, NEITHER OF US KNEW ABOUT IT.
WOULD THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENT-LY?
IF LUCA HAD INTRODUCED US TO EACH OTHER IN THAT VILLAGE..

. WHO KNOWS .
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
Fuwush
STOP!
RATTLE
THIEVES WITH NO EYE FOR PICKING TARGETS
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO MONEY AND THERE'S ONLY STRAW IN MY CARGO, AS WELL AS
LEAVE BEHIND ALL OF YOUR MONEY AND CARGO, OLD MAN!

SWOOSH
...ONE RIDER
I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY.
IF YOU BLOCK US..
YOU BASTARDS ARE THE ONES WHO SHOULD JUST GIVE ME ALL YOUR MONEY!
WAH!
Who is this brat?
thwack
thud
UGH!


THIEVES IN THE CITY ARE SO UN-SKILLED
WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU?
...
HEY, YOU, WHERE DID YOU GET THIS HANDKER-CHIEF?
THIS
IS THAT SO
IT SEEMS THERE'S A PARTY TOMOR-ROW
IT'S GOOD CLOTH THAT I FOUND, ISN'T IT?
This certainly looks like
may also be going to the White Manor
So the owner of this hand-kerchief
ALL THESE BANDITS MUST BE GATHER-ING TO MUG THE GUESTS
WHERE?
...NEAR THE WHITE MANOR... A YOUNG BAJI LADY DROPPED IT..
THE WHITE MANOR ?!

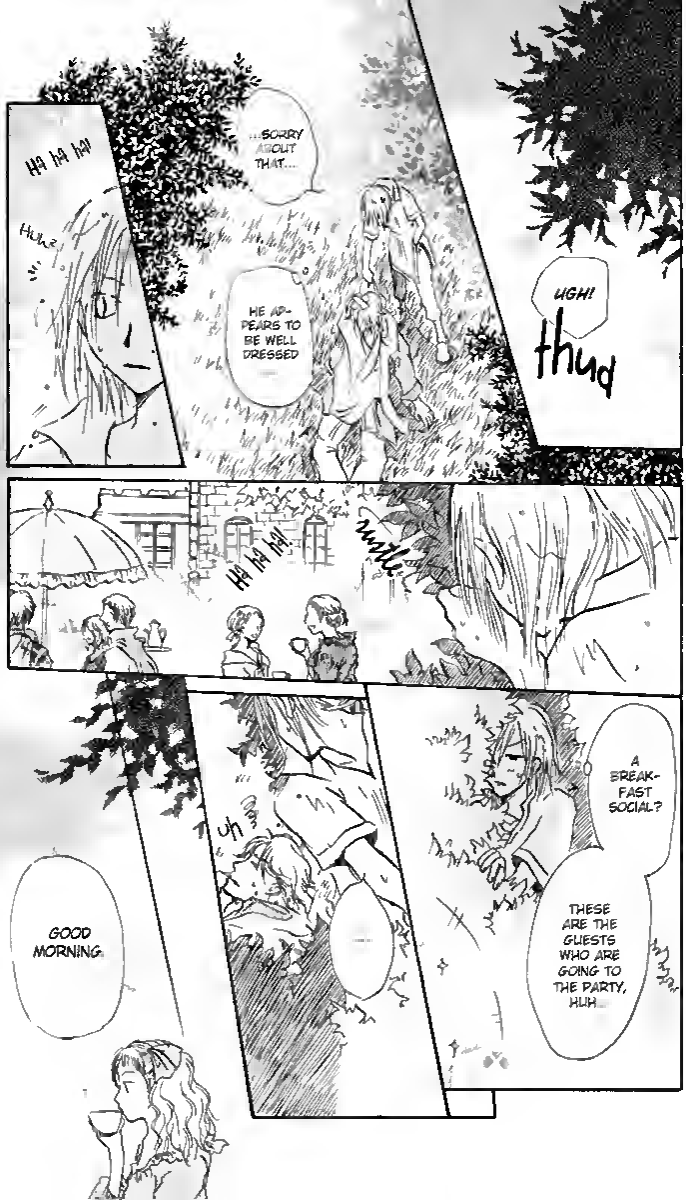
Western Trade Town
Libamm
THERE IT IS...
A manor on a lake...
The only bridge is heavily guarded, so I'll have to be very cautious...
IT'S GOING TO BE ANNOYING SNEAKING IN THERE...

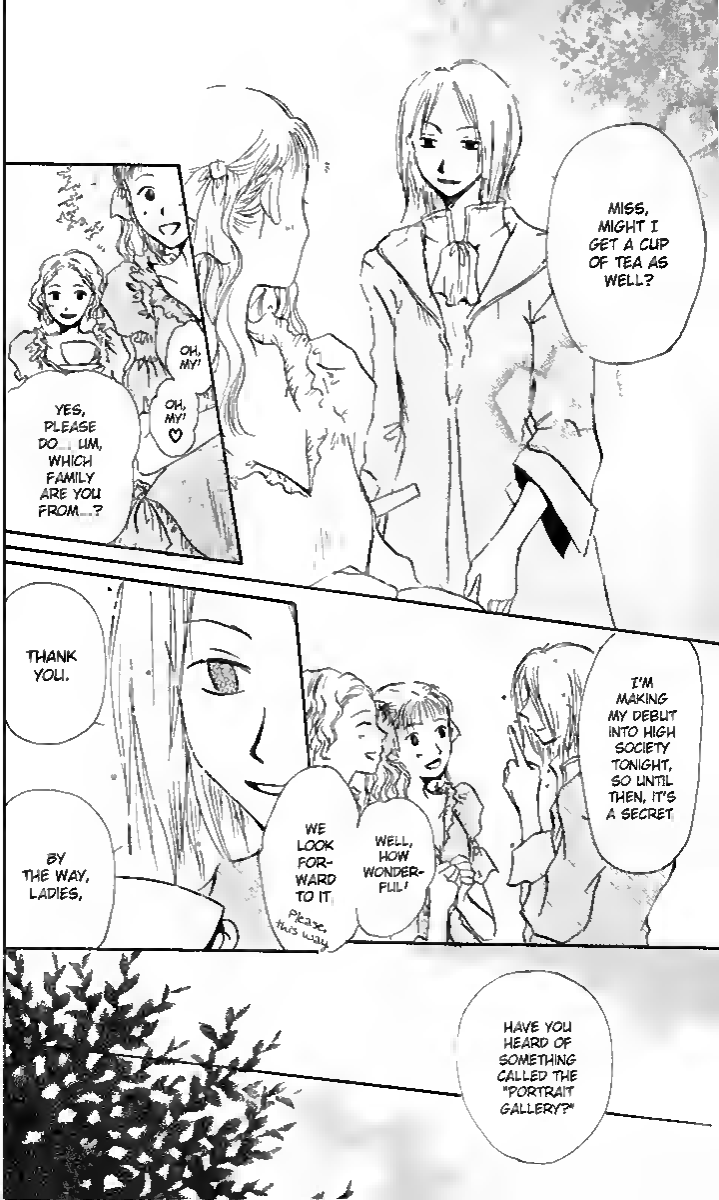
Dang, I can't swim...
AND THERE'S NO BOAT.
...
KERPLUNK
...
rustle
JERICH

SHUDDER
SWISH
...WHY, IT'S SO DARK I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE SURFACE OF THE WATER ...
Where does the water start?
swish
Daaah
thump
thump
thump
thump
CLATTER
CLANK
SWISH
"Satsu"
"Satsu"

splash
Splish
Just until those lights.
Pant
Pant
Luca.
splish
Luca...
...please call out to me.

CHIRP
CHIRP
I'M ALIVE
I'll be able to fly over...
Then, surely,
OVER THERE! IS SOMEONE THERE?!
!
He saw me?!
CHIRP
CHIRP
FWISH
!


HA HA HA!
HUH?
...SORRY ABOUT THAT...
HE APPEARS TO BE WELL DRESSED
UGH!
thud
HA HA HA!
rustle
A BREAKFAST SOCIAL?
THESE ARE THE GUESTS WHO ARE GOING TO THE PARTY, HUH...
uh?
GOOD MORNING.


MISS, MIGHT I GET A CUP OF TEA AS WELL?
OH, MY!
OH, MY! ♡
YES, PLEASE DO... UM, WHICH FAMILY ARE YOU FROM...?
I'M MAKING MY DEBUT INTO HIGH SOCIETY TONIGHT, SO UNTIL THEN, IT'S A SECRET.
WELL, HOW WONDERFUL!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
Please, this way.
THANK YOU.
BY THE WAY, LADIES,
HAVE YOU HEARD OF SOMETHING CALLED THE "PORTRAIT GALLERY?"

THANK YOU WELL, I'LL SEE YOU ALL LATER.
WHAT A FINE PERSON
HIS CLOTHES LOOK JUST LIKE LORD FRIDO'S.
WELL, HE MIGHT BE HIS SON.
BUT WHY WAS HIS HAIR WET...?
sniff
achoo
Ugh
shiver
shiver
The water's soaking in!
Now then...
"I heard the Portrait Gallery is inside the old part of the building."
DASH

!
!
AAAAAAAH!!
THUMP
What the...?

✱New Editor Mr S

Currently in the midst of increasing my pace reaching out towards my goal, and discovering my ambitions as a mangaka.

I often think that he's a natural strategist.

When I say something, he can immediately consider it from many different perspectives and give me an opinion, his thoughts are amazingly nimble.

I, being slow at processing information, constantly watch him in amazement.

When my work doesn't display the politeness that it should to my readers, or when my work/ideas aren't very clear, he always points it out to me.

Sometimes I let my imagination run wild and he always manages to draw the line between my "wild imagination" and "silliness"

This puts me at peace. Gentle but not indulging. He's a bit unconventional, but he is extremely dependable.

He has such a cute personality so I can't influence his job outlook because of my own personal flaws.

He's unluckily been assigned as my editor, so I will take responsibility. Right now I'm vigorously brainstorming in hope that I'll be able to create an interesting piece of work together with him.

CRASH
WAH!
SETSU

MISS KULEA.
GOOD MORNING, EVERY-ONE.
PLEASE ENJOY YOUR-SELVES TODAY.
...
DORII..
MISS KULEA.
A GALLANT YOUNG MAN I SAW JUST NOW ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER THIS

...MY HANDKERCHIEF...
I WONDER WHO IT WAS...
SETSU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
And in those strange clothes
DORII, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
...I WAS A LITTLE CARELESS
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS SURROUNDED, AND THEY BROUGHT ME HERE
I WAS GOING TO WAIT A BIT AND SEE HOW THINGS WOULD TURN OUT, BUT THEY WERE ABOUT TO RIP OUT MY FINGERNAILS SO I RAN AWAY.
!

wshhhh
AH, SETSU, IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T LOOK
EVERY-ONE'S BEEN ALL CUT UP
...
DORII, IS THIS BE-CAUSE YOU WOULDN'T KILL THE KING?
THIS IS ONLY BE-CAUSE I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THE BAJI
click click
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
SO...

I CAME HERE TO SEE THE PORTRAIT GALLERY.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT CONTAIN A PORTRAIT OF WHAT LUCA LOOKS LIKE NOW.
YOU'RE STILL LOOKING FOR LUCA?
I MIGHT HAVE WANDERED INTO THAT ROOM ONCE.
REALLY ?!
I'LL HELP. IT FEELS NICE WHEN I'M WITH YOU...
YOU REALLY SAVED ME DORII.
THE TRUTH IS...
...I WAS FEELING A BIT HELP-LESS

HMM.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY DON'T YOU STOP?
HA HA'
SO, THE PORTRAIT GALLERY
FOR THE TIME BEING, LET'S GO DOWN
LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT.
I'm starving
EH?
I CAN'T CLEARLY REMEMBER THE LOCATION OF THAT GALLERY
WE SHOULD.
...ASK SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE THEY'D KNOW.
Wait
Wait

"If you're looking for that handsome and androgynous-like person."
TAP
TAP
click
" he went in the direction of the manor "
KULEA!
SETSU!

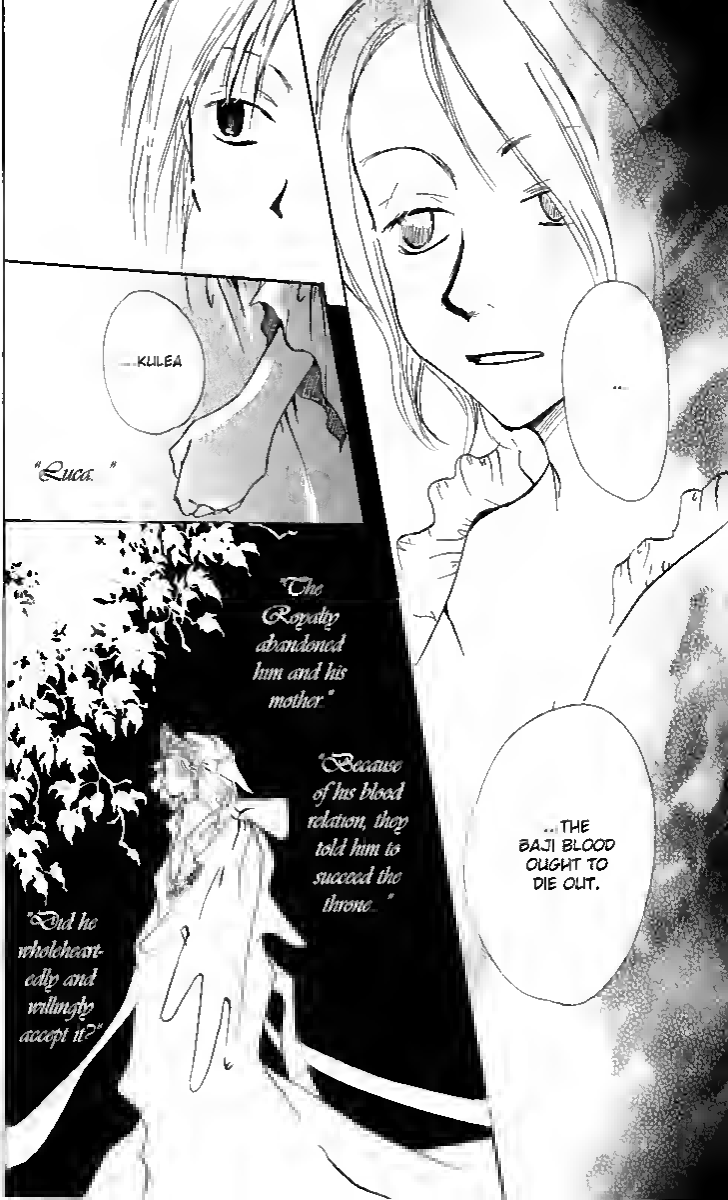
THE PERSON WHO DELIVERED MY HANDKERCHIEF WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?
WHEN I HEARD THE STORY, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOU
HEH HEH
SETSU, IS THAT LADY AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS AS WELL?

Who
Osk
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, MISS KULEA
DORII JIN...
IS IT REALLY OK FOR YOU TO BE HANGING AROUND HERE?
I HEARD ABOUT, YOU
SHOULD I TRY MEDIATING BETWEEN YOU GUYS?

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, MISS KULEA,
WE HAVE A REQUEST.
BUT IF WE'RE SEEN TOGETHER, IT'LL BE BAD...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M JUST RETURNING THE FAVOR FOR THE HANDKERCHIEF.
...THANK YOU, KULEA.

...IT'S HUGE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE
WHEN I WAS SMALL, I THOUGHT IT WAS FUN, I OFTEN SNUCK IN HERE WITH MY FRIENDS
BUT THERE WERE STRANGE DEVICES AND A HIDDEN ROOMS...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE ONLY BEEN IN THE PORTRAIT GALLERY ONCE...
IT'S FORBIDDEN TO ANYONE EXCEPT THE OWNER, NAGI, AND THE ARTISTS
THAT'S RIGHT. WE MET YOUR BROTHER IN THE CAPITAL.
THE SO-CALLED LORD NAGI.

HE WAS PROBABLY UNPLEASANT
I'M SORRY, SETSU.
OH.
IT WAS ALREADY UNUSUAL THAT YOU DIDN'T HATE THE BAJI TO BEGIN WITH.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO MEET HIM.
SETSU,
A FOOLISH FAMILY THAT KEEP REPEATING THIS SORT OF ACTIVITY
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, THEY'RE WILLING TO USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY NO MATTER HOW DIRTY
...UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES, THEY THINK OF USING POWER AND RANK TO OPPRESS THEIR OPPONENTS.
EVERYONE IN THE BAJI FAMILY ARE LIKE THAT.
INCLUDING ME


...
...KULEA
"Luca."
"The Royalty abandoned him and his mother."
"Because of his blood relation, they told him to succeed the throne."
"Did he wholeheartedly and willingly accept it?"
...THE BAJI BLOOD OUGHT TO DIE OUT.

"Despite being the king's illegitimate son, he was the last in the royal line."
"I still imagined that he possessed a pair of ambitious eyes."
WHOOSH
"He led an arduous life in poverty."
"Even so..."

TO ME, KULEA IS KULEA.
MY OPINION OF YOU WON'T CHANGE
SETSU...
HOW ANNOYING... I THINK THERE'S A GUARD COMING THIS WAY...
OH?

RUN, SETSU!
LET'S HURRY!
dash
KULEA, IT'S OK. IT'LL BE BAD IF THEY FIND YOU WITH US
I HEARD TALK OF A MOLE...
SO YOU'RE THE ONE LEAKING INFORMATION?
THE BAJI ARE MY ENEMY
SINCE I COULDN'T GO AGAINST THEM, I LOST A LOT OF WHAT WAS PRECIOUS TO ME.
I'VE HAD IT!

I DON'T WANT TO REGRET AFTER LOSING THINGS
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S AROUND HERE
THIS REALLY IS A STRANGE STRUCTURE. I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHAT FLOOR WE'RE ON NOW.
THIS PASSAGE'S SOMEHOW LONGER THAN THE ONE ON THE FLOOR BELOW
I WONDER, IF THERE'S A HIDDEN ROOM UNDER HERE...

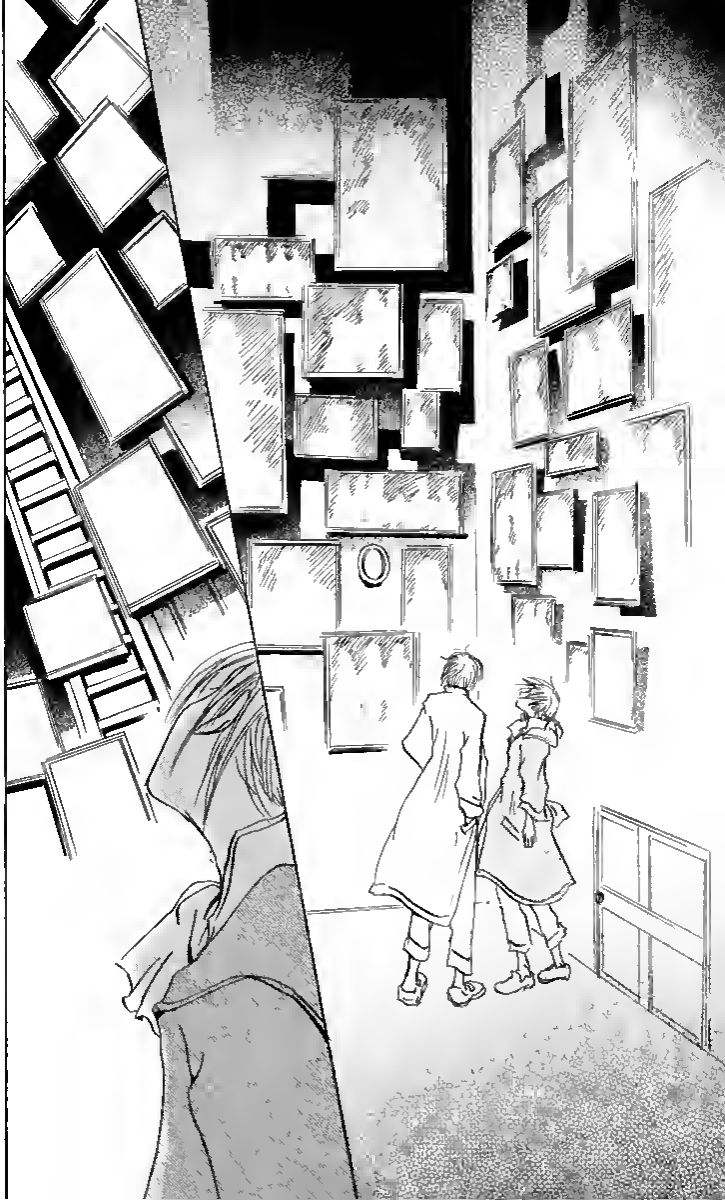
PLUNK
CLINK
HUH?
WHAT?
WIND COMING FROM BELOW ...?
Whiiss
AIIIIIIIII!
!
SETSU!
JIN!

"Soiru"

Luca.
Luca...
SETSU...

SETSU.
DORI?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THINK I REMEMBER THE WAY FROM HERE
The exit's that way!
WILL KULEA BE ALL RIGHT?
DIDN'T YOU SAY IT YOURSELF, SETSU?
SHE'LL BE SAFER IF SHE'S NOT WITH US
THAT'S RIGHT.

Wuuuk

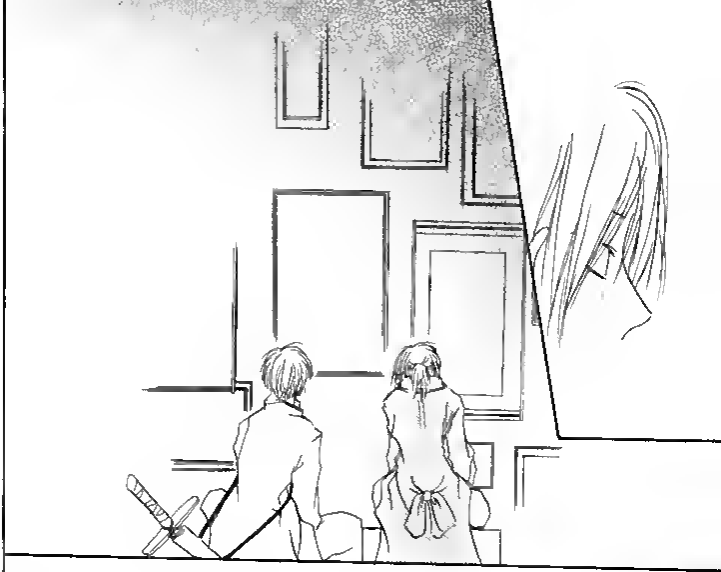


I thought it was enough to just have you by my side

I wish we had talked more

I simply believed in that smile of yours.
Not letting anyone see your weak side However...
...there was a slight waver in your eyes...
perhaps I deliberately acted as though I didn't see it.
Just one more time...
Luca
One more time

I want to know what's truly inside your heart



SETSU,

I WAS EMPLOYED AS AN ASSASSIN BY THE BAJI FAMILY FIVE YEARS AGO.

BEFORE I TALKED TO YOU, I DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO IT...

BUT BACK THEN, I HEARD A STRANGE RUMOUR.

A BAJI ASSASSIN WENT TO A SMALL VILLAGE BECAUSE OF AN ASSIGN-MENT.
AFTER-WARDS, THAT ASSASSIN APPARENTLY DISAPPEARED.
A SMALL... VILLAGE?
WHEN HE CAME BACK, HE SAID SOME-THING LIKE THIS:
"I PICKED UP SOME-THING VERY INTER-ESTING."
YEAH, IT WAS PROBABLY

...NIOLZ.
Riiiiii
IIII

SETSU, LET'S GO!
...
One more time
...RIGHT.
THANK YOU, DORII.

bang
One more time, Luca
!
THERE THEY ARE!
THESE GUYS LOOK SUSPI-CIOUS!
FINISH

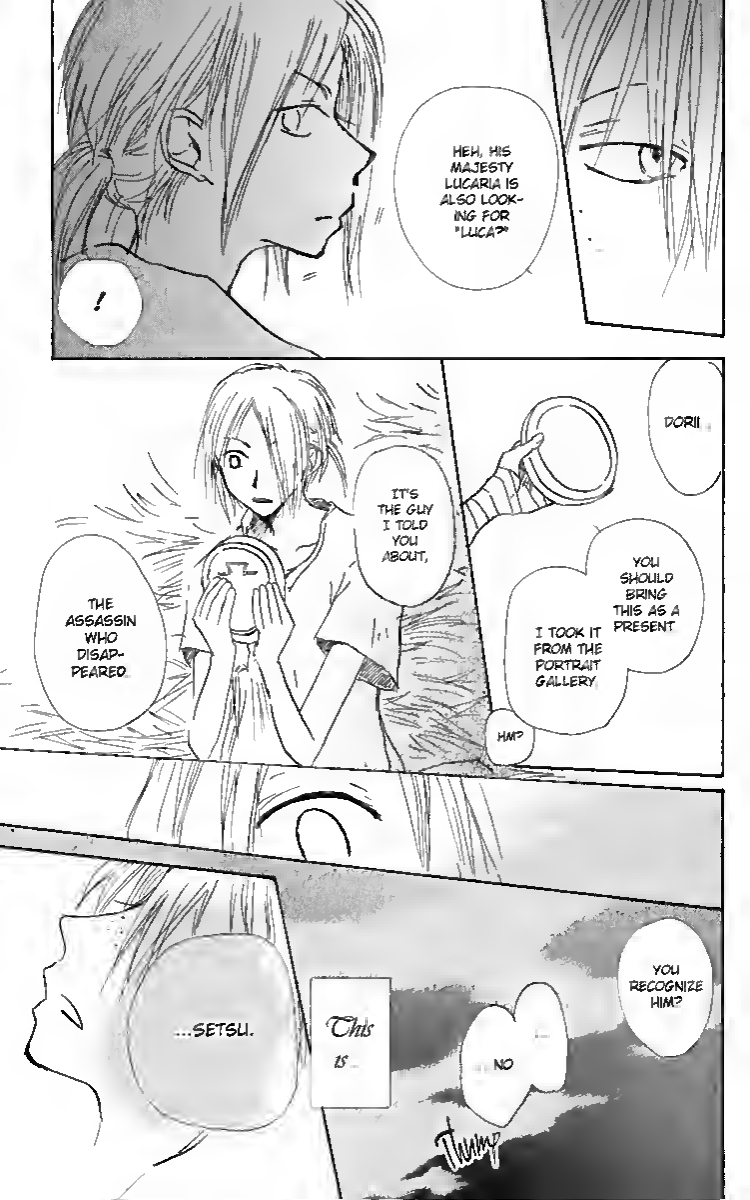
LET'S FLY, SETSU!
GASP
YEAH!
BANG

pant
pant
pant
!
ARE YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?!
WE'RE EXTREMELY SORRY, MISS KULEA
WE LET THE INTRUDERS ESCAPE.
...I SEE.

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
ACHOO!
HONEST-LY
WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT
YOU ALMOST MADE ME DROWN WITH YOU
IF YOU CAN'T SWIM, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME EARLIER

HEY DORII
HM?
AMONG THOSE PAINTINGS
YOU WERE THERE, TOO
WEARING BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES, AND STANDING WITH MANY PEOPLE
DESPITE WHATEVER I AM NOW, I WAS ONCE THE HEIR OF A PRETTY FAMOUS NOBLE FAMILY.
MANY THINGS HAPPENED AND OUR FAMILY FELL ON HARD TIMES.
AT THAT TIME, I PLAYED WITH KLILEA OFTEN AND WE SNUCK INTO THE WHITE MANOR TOGETHER
HOWEVER,
KLILEA AND I COULD NO LONGER BE FRIENDS,
BECAUSE THE BAJI FAMILY WAS TOO CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL STATUS

...IS NO LONGER OF ANY IMPOR-TANCE.
BUT, THAT MATTER
...
...I SEE...
...
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW, SETSU?
I'M RETURN-ING TO THE CASTLE
HIS MAJESTY IS WAIT-ING
I WANT TO QUICKLY TELL HIM
...THE STORY YOU TOLD ME, DORI!


HEH, HIS MAJESTY LUCARIA IS ALSO LOOKING FOR "LUCA?"
!
DORII
YOU SHOULD BRING THIS AS A PRESENT
I TOOK IT FROM THE PORTRAIT GALLERY
HM?
IT'S THE GUY I TOLD YOU ABOUT,
THE ASSASSIN WHO DISAPPEARED
YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?
...NO
This is...
...SETSU.
Thump

...I'LL LEND YOU MY STRENGTH, SO CAN I STAY WITH YOU A LITTLE LONGER?
...YES, PLEASE DO.

The Scarlet Chair

by Midorikawa Yuki

Brought to you by

Dragon Voice

(http://dragonvoice.org)

The Credits:

Translator: sakurasou

X-tra Trans: lethalbeef

& Sailor_Avalon

Proofreader: Snowfreak

Editors: moofu & Crimson_Rain

HQ Checker: mangauniverse

THE SCARLET CHAIR

ACT 6

A rough summary of what has happened so far...

In order to see her childhood friend again, Setsu went to the capital only to discover that the one who ascended the throne as Lucaena is a fake.

Five years later at the Rozen Capital

Who are you?!

Shut up! This is Lucaena-sama!

Setsu, a poor girl

Five years ago in the poor village of Nola

To succeed the throne, I must go to the capital.

Luca, son of the king's concubine and the last of the royal bloodline

Setsu, a poor girl and Luca's childhood friend

(The Fake King) His Majesty, Lucaena

From a suspicious medicine in a village near the border Luca's the only one who understands him

He is the homeless boy Luca brought along on his journey. He pretends to be Luca, who was ambushed and whose fate remains uncertain, in order to protect the throne from the greedy Baja family.

The only ones who know this are

Kazuma, who escorted Luca to the capital,

and Lady Kira, the good friend of Luca's late mother

With their help, Setsu's search for Luca begins.

Sneaking into the Baja family's residence to search in the Portrait Gallery for a portrait of the grown up Luca (if there is any, then it means Luca's still alive) proved to be a futile attempt.

with the help of former Baja assassin Dora, Setsu obtained new clues regarding the whereabouts of Luca.

and hastily returned to the capital.

But,

Masked Painter

Paints portraits of notable figures and anathema, portraits of all of his work are kept in the Portrait Gallery.

Kulea:

a daughter of the Baja family and Setsu's friend

Haga:

Second generation leader of the Baja family who's set out to destroy the royal family and seize the throne.

Dora: Jin

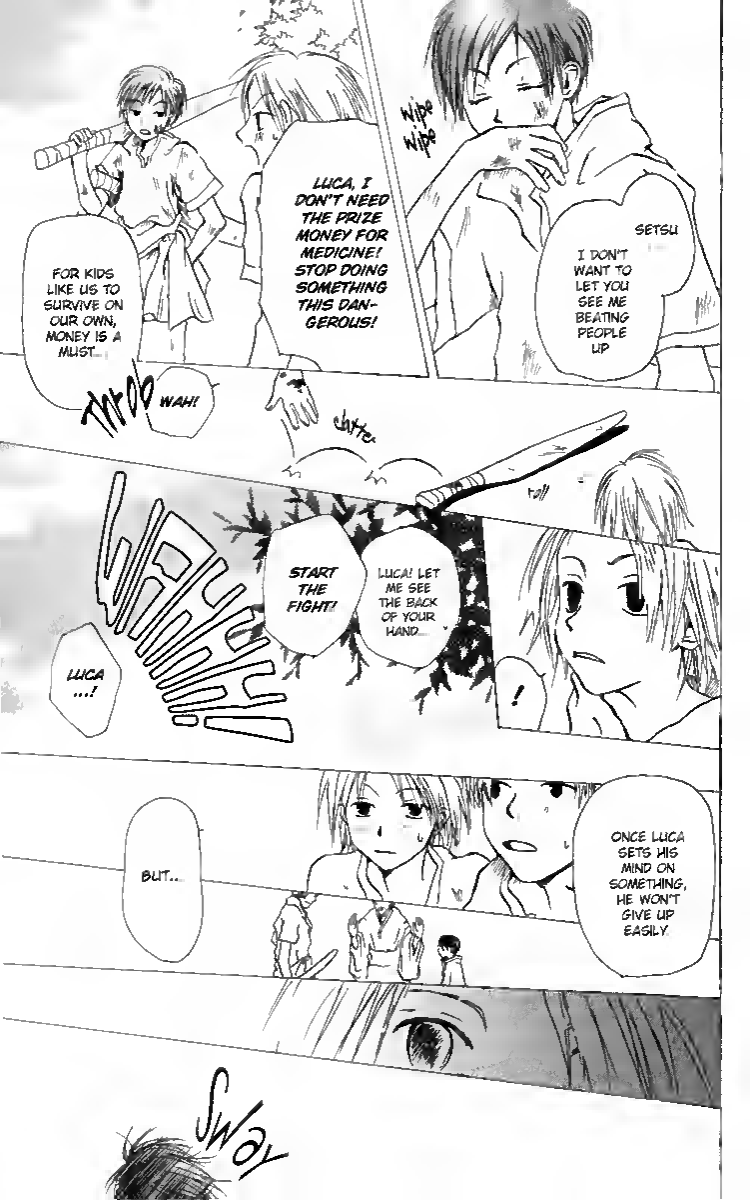
Vowed on revenge and currently in training.

Re-come to me!!

"Look, Setsu!"
"Watch..."
SWISH
SLASH
CR
ASH
...
DID YOU SEE THAT, SETSU?
HE WON AGAIN ...

A closet that can no longer be opened
Mangas and Lala yx
rejected rough drafts
Some usable illustrations and lines/dialogues in the rejected rough drafts are cut out and pasted here once the rough draft is approved
room and resume my work in the manga
Bed
Fax
TV
Entrance
Hallway
I'm actually putting stuff in my bed and they're my files too! Even though even I realized that I still end up putting them on my bed. Then I feel it's such a hassle to move them so the days of sleeping leaning against my bed continue.
Completed rough drafts that are slowly accumulating
I use A4 notebooks. One act takes at least eight of these. These notebooks are very expensive!
episode contents always change so there's a pile of cut-out remains
don't look at the screen. I just listen to the sound. It's too lonely without any sound.
My workroom during plot conceptualization...
Like a pigsty that cannot be seen by people.

WAHHH!
WINNER, LUCA!
THAT GUY WON AGAIN ...!
AGAIN !
LUCA, YOU'RE SO AWE-SOME! YOU CAN EVEN BEAT THE ADULTS!
MAYBE YOU REALLY CAN GET THE PRIZE MONEY!
HOW MANY MORE ARE THERE ?
NEXT ONE'S THE SEMI-FINALIST MATCH!
LUCA!
STARTLE
WAH! SETSU...! DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO COME?!
WHY NOT?
HOW COME THIS LITTLE NOBODY AND FOUR-EYED CAN COME, BUT I CAN'T?
FOUR-EYES!
LITTLE WHIMPER!

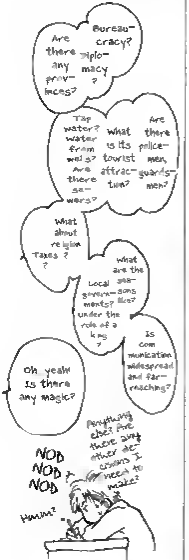

Wipe wipe
SETSU
I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU SEE ME BEATING PEOPLE UP
LUCA, I DON'T NEED THE PRIZE MONEY FOR MEDICINE! STOP DOING SOMETHING THIS DANGEROUS!
FOR KIDS LIKE US TO SURVIVE ON OUR OWN, MONEY IS A MUST...
Throb
WAH!
Shiiin
Shiiin
START THE FIGHT!
LUCA! LET ME SEE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND...
LUCA ...!
!
ONCE LUCA SETS HIS MIND ON SOMETHING, HE WON'T GIVE UP EASILY.
BUT...
Sway

WAH! LUCA!
COLLAPSE
Someone bring water! Water!
In the end, due to lack of sleep and exhaustion, he fainted and was disqualified.
But that day,
and he didn't get any prize money either.
The wound on the back of his left hand left a scar,
the two of us held hands on the way home
SETSU.
SETSU
HMM?

NOT THE NIGHT ROBBERS AGAIN? THERE'S NO WAY TO GET ANY REST!
I'LL LEAVE THE NEXT ONE TO YOU
THEY'VE PROBABLY SET THEIR SIGHTS ON GUESTS ATTENDING THE FESTIVAL AT THE CAPITAL.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Whoosh

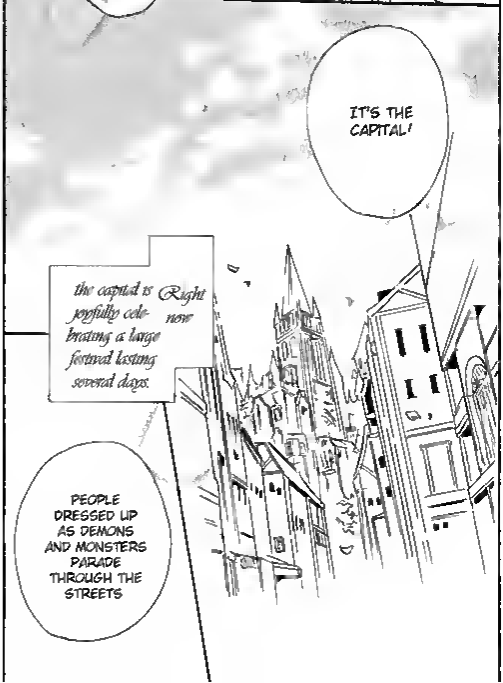
SWISH
OH!
WHOOSH
HIYAHHH!
Wahhh!
Gah!
CHIRP CHIRP
The person I'm searching for is my important childhood friend, Luca.
He's the son of the former king's concubine and the last of the royal bloodline.
With the company of former Ban assassin Dorn, we're making our way back to the capital where His Majesty awaits our return.
HUH?
WAH! IT REALLY IS!
THIS KIND OF PAIN IS NOTHING TO ME
DOESN'T IT HURT A LOT?
DORI! THE WOUND ON YOUR HAND IS REOPENING
I HAVE A DELAYED RESPONSE WHEN IT COMES TO PAIN
OH...

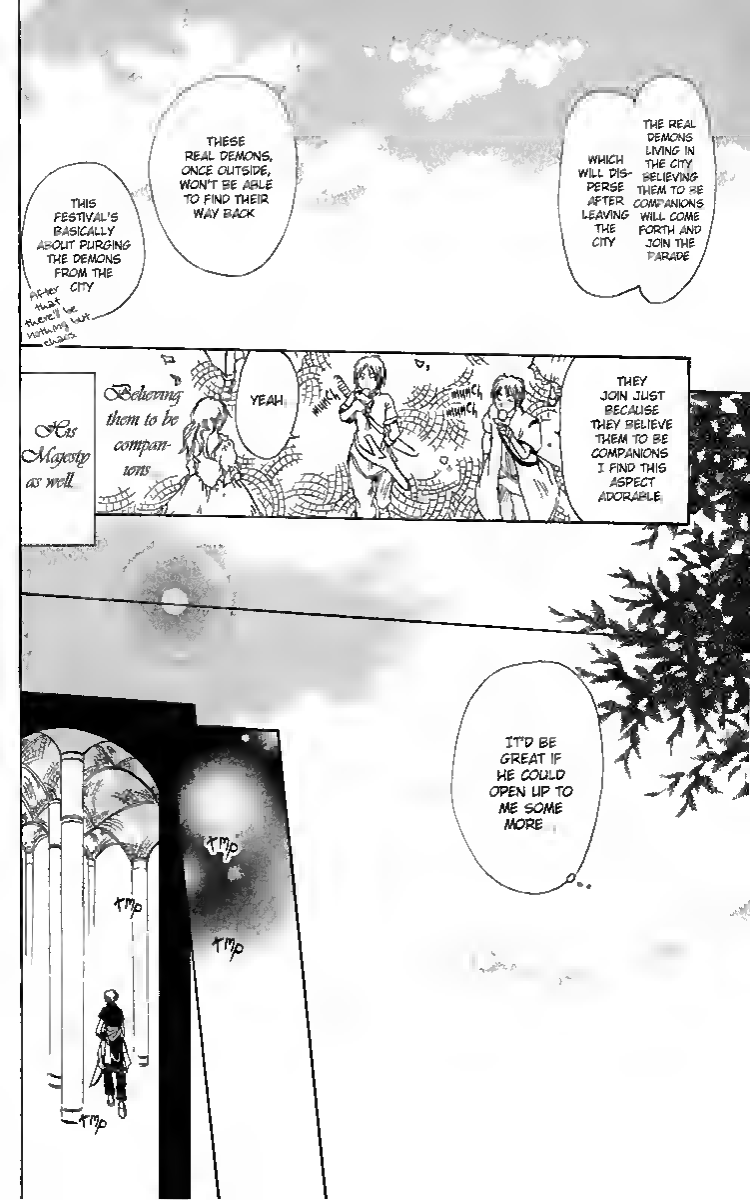
Fantasy? That refers to an unrealistic society


Are there any privileges?
Bureaucracy?
Diplomacy?
Tap water? Water from wells? Are there sewers?
What is its tourist attraction?
Are there policemen, guardsmen?
What about religion? Taxes?
What are the local governments like? Under the rule of a king?
Is communication widespread and far-reaching?
Oh yeah! Is there any magic?
Anything else? Are there any other differences I should be aware of?
NOD NOD NOD
Hmmm?

Just like this, I thought about many details, and then I tried not to draw anything outside of this model. I really enjoy doing this. Although this is a story set in a distant world, I tried to make it as realistic as possible by not adding in magic. When I was a student, I took the completely imaginative fantasy path. If I used too many fantasy elements, some people have a hard time understanding and getting into the story. For this, I aim to be simple and clear. The names I use are also common and clear.

I WANTED TO SEE HIM, SO I WENT TO CHANGE HIS BANDAGE EVERYDAY
BECAUSE WE HAD NO MONEY TO BUY MEDICINE, IT LEFT A SCAR
LUCA'S HAND WAS HURT BEFORE, TOO

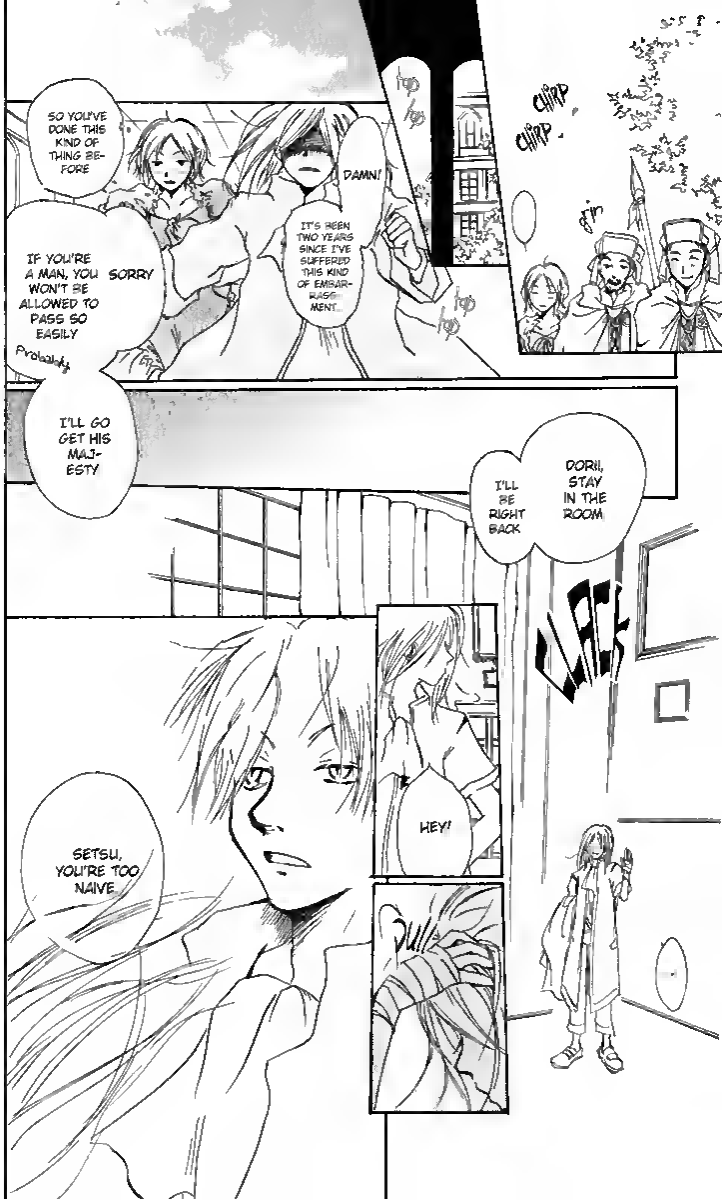

IT'S THE CAPITAL!
Right now the capital is joyfully celebrating a large festival lasting several days.
PEOPLE DRESSED UP AS DEMONS AND MONSTERS PARADE THROUGH THE STREETS


THIS FESTIVAL'S BASICALLY ABOUT PURGING THE DEMONS FROM THE CITY
After much debate there'll be nothing but chaos
THESE REAL DEMONS, ONCE OUTSIDE, WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND THEIR WAY BACK
WHICH WILL DISPERSE AFTER LEAVING THE CITY
THE REAL DEMONS LIVING IN THE CITY BELIEVING THEM TO BE COMPANIONS WILL COME FORTH AND JOIN THE PARADE
His Majesty as well
Believing them to be companions
YEAH
MUNCH MUNCH
THEY JOIN JUST BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THEM TO BE COMPANIONS I FIND THIS ASPECT ADORABLE
IT'D BE GREAT IF HE COULD OPEN UP TO ME SOME MORE
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

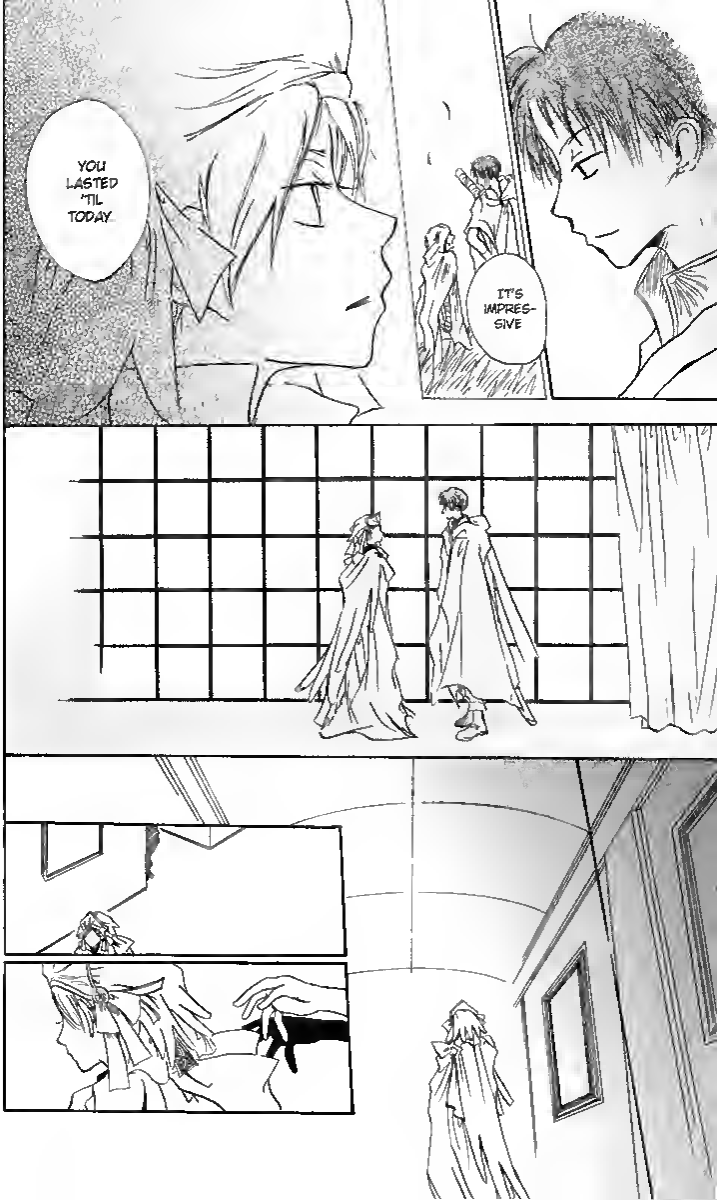
IS THAT SO?
sigh
tmp
tmp
tmp
I wonder
THE INVESTIGATION ON KAZUNA TURNED UP NOTHING
"Regarding Kazuna?"
"He seems to have no family or relative"
"The previous king, after seeing his fighting skills, took him into the castle."
"After the previous king passed away, his loyalty must have turned toward the successor of the royal bloodline and the throne."
...if everything's going smoothly on Seisu's side...
tmp

YOUR MAJESTY LUCARIA.
YOUR MAJESTY
WHO IS IT ?!
AH!
PLEASE ACCEPT MY REQUEST
!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
SLAP
WHO ARE YOU?
YOUR VOICE SOUNDS SO FAMILIAR
HM? AH!
YOU RECOG-NIZE MY VOICE?
YOUR MAJESTY, I....

HI, I'M BACK
AH, MISS SETSU
IT'S SO RARE TO SEE YOU DRESSED UP SO FORMALLY
HIS MAJESTY TOLD ME I WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED IN IF I DIDN'T DRESS FORMALLY
HA HA! HIS MAJESTY IS WAITING FOR YOU
IT FEELS GOOD TO ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR
AH! WAIT WHO IS THIS, MISS, ACCOMPANYING YOU?
SHE'S MY COMPANION AND ALSO HIS MAJESTY'S FRIEND.
AH!
Smile


SO YOU'VE DONE THIS KIND OF THING BEFORE
DAMN!
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I'VE SUFFERED THIS KIND OF EMBARRASSMENT.
SORRY
IF YOU'RE A MAN, YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO PASS SO EASILY
Probably
I'LL GO GET HIS MAJESTY
CHIRP CHIRP
DORII, STAY IN THE ROOM
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
CLICK
HEY!
SETSU, YOU'RE TOO NAIVE

BEING TOO TRUSTING
...CAN LEAD TO A DEVASTATING OUTCOME.
YOUR MAJESTY, IS TODAY'S SCHEDULE FINE WITH YOU?
YEAH, I GOT IT.
THESE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS DURING THE FESTIVAL ARE REALLY IMPORTANT.
THERE MAY BE A LOT OF GOSSIP SO BE SURE TO CONDUCT YOURSELF IN A RESPECTABLE RIGHTEOUS MANNER.
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING.
HA HA ...


YOU LASTED 'TIL TODAY.
IT'S IMPRES-SIVE

GRAB
!
WHO THE HELL ...?!
THUNK
OUCH
SE...
WHAT?!
YOUR MAJESTY! BE QUIET!
SHHH!
THROB THROB
WHAT ?!
YOU BROUGHT THE BAJI ASSASSIN IN HERE?!
SORRY, I SHOULD HAVE ASKED YOU FIRST.
BUT DORII TOLD ME HE ALREADY ENDED ALL TIES WITH THE BAJI. WILL YOU MEET HIM?

IDIOT! HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?! WHAT IF HE HAS SOME OTHER PLAN IN MIND?!
IDIOT?!
BUT, I DON'T THINK HE'S LYING!
I BELIEVE WE NEED HIS HELP. AND THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT HIM HERE.
BUT IF...
IT'S LIKE WHAT YOU SAID...
THEN I'LL STOP HIM EVEN IF IT COSTS MY LIFE
I WILL PROTECT YOUR MAJESTY.
JUST WITH YOUR SKILLS.
CAN YOU STOP ME?

HELLO, YOUR MAJESTY.
SETSU, I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR TRUST, BUT YOUR MAJESTY'S RIGHT
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP
YOU'RE GONNA END UP DEAD, SETSU
BUT I ACTUALLY DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN YOUR MAJESTY. I DO WANT TO MEET LUCA, THOUGH.
FOR ME, AS LONG AS I CAN USE MY SWORD, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHEN AND WHERE. THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO HELP YOU.
THIS IS A PRETTY DECENT DEAL.
BUT IF THERE COMES A CHANCE ...

I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR WHAT YOU DID TO THIS LEFT HAND
DORI!!
FINE
IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING, THEN TELL ME.
FIVE YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A BAJI ASSASSIN WHO WENT TO NIOLZ ON A MISSION
AT A RURAL PLACE LIKE THAT, THE ONLY THING THAT COULD POSSIBLY CONCERN THE BAJI FAMILY IS LUCARIA.

IF YOU FIND HIM, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN SOME CLUES.
THAT'S WHAT THE ASSASSIN LOOKS LIKE
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS YOUR MAJESTY
LATER, THAT ASSASSIN DISAP-PEARED...
AFTER RETURNING FROM NIOLZ, HE SAID, "I FOUND SOMETHING INTEREST-ING."
AS TO WHAT THAT SOMETHING IS, I HAVE NO IDEA...
...I'VE MET HIM.
HM?

THIS PERSON...
I JUST SAW HIM.
HUH?!
SETSU, MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE...
BUT... YOU OUGHT HAVE MET THIS PERSON BEFORE AS WELL...

IT'S THE PAINTER..
THAT MASKED PAINTER!
HE WAS JUST HERE ASKING ME TO LET HIM PAINT A PORTRAIT OF ME
HE SHOULDN'T BE FAR.
THEN

DON'T HURT HIM! CATCH HIM ALIVE!
RUSH-LE RUSH-LE
WOBBLE
RUSH-LE
IDIOT! YOU WERE GOING TO JUMP DOWN LIKE THIS?!
thump
the former Baji assassin
That was the Baji
thump
The person who might be connected to Luca.
AFTER HIM!
GUARDS!
DON'T LET THAT GUY LEAVE THE CASTLE!
I'M GOING AS WELL! GUARDS, WHERE'S KAZUNA?
HE'S MONITORING THE INSPECTION AT THE WEST GATE...!

Luca...
Luca...

BUMP
AH!
SORRY...
THAT'S OK.
Who was that guy just now...?
HE COULDN'T BE THE PAINTER...
I didn't feel that aura.
This is bad, Setsu... in the midst of all this festivity...

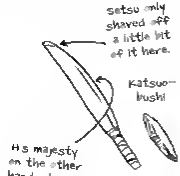
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
...perhaps something has sneaked into the city
SIR KAZUMA.
HELLO
LADY KIRA...
YEAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE LAST MET.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

*Note: Dried chunk of tuna

06

Regarding small tools

Regarding small tools. The swords of Setsu and the others aren't made from iron. I drew it with the image of a lighter material. It is sold in a shape similar to katsuobushi* and like katsuobushi you shave it to a shape of your liking. It's a somewhat troublesome thing.



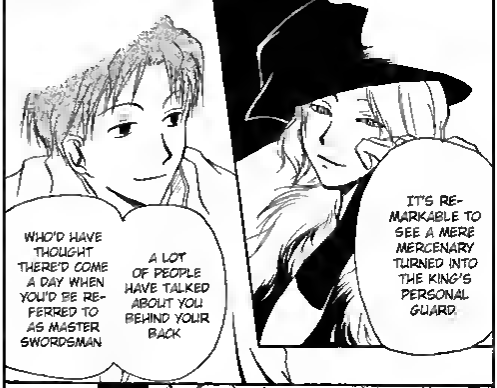
Yoh likes to fight, so his weapon is a unique double-edged sword. Lately, I haven't been shaving any katsuobushi and I kind of miss it...

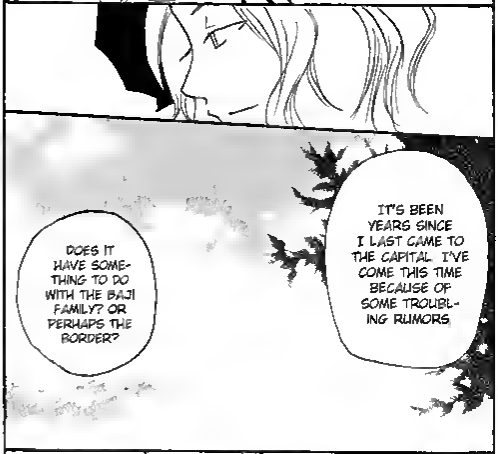
Mail

I've thoroughly read the mail everyone sent me. I'm really thankful. Some had some suggestions and others were from people who closely read my work. I've received so many encouraging and joyful thoughts that I can tell just by looking at the envelope. Sorry that it takes me so long to reply to them. I will cherish all the encouragement everyone's giving me.

Thank you guys so much.

1/4 end.


WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THERE'D COME A DAY WHEN YOU'D BE REFERRED TO AS MASTER SWORDSMAN
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TALKED ABOUT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK
IT'S REMARKABLE TO SEE A MERE MERCENARY TURNED INTO THE KING'S PERSONAL GUARD.


DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE BAJI FAMILY? OR PERHAPS THE BORDER?
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST CAME TO THE CAPITAL. I'VE COME THIS TIME BECAUSE OF SOME TROUBLING RUMORS.

I ENCOUNTERED SOME BAJI MEN ON MY WAY HERE. SO YOU AND NAGI SERVED IN THE ARMY AT THE SAME TIME AND HAVE BEEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD TOGETHER.
A BIT OF BOTH...

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
LADY KIRA.
WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF HE'D BEEN KILLED DURING ALL THAT CHAOS AND CONFUSION ON THE BATTLEFIELD?
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?
THE BOY LUCA, WHAT'S HE DOING RIGHT NOW?
THE PERSON THAT GIRL SETSU IS TRYING TO FIND
WHAT...
...DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

SIR KAZUHA!
CAN YOU COME OVER HERE FOR A SECOND?!
HIS MAJESTY...!
"Huh? What's this place?"
"The Tournament Infirmary."
"... Sorry Setsu."
"There's nothing to be sorry for!"
NOPE!
YOU WERE DISQUALIFIED.
SETSU, DID I LOSE?
SETSU.
LET'S GO HOME...

SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY.
MAYBE HE ALREADY LEFT THE CITY
"All right"
"Let's go home"
WE'RE SO CLOSE TO FINDING SOMEONE WHO CAN LEAD US TO LUCA, BUT...
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I ACTED TOO RASHLY AND SCARED HIM AWAY
SETSU, TO ME AND KAZUNA THIS FESTIVAL,
IS PERHAPS AN OBSTACLE WE MUST OVERCOME...
IF I WERE YOU, I'D HAVE DONE THE SAME.
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE SO MANY PEOPLE.
...FOR THE SAKE OF HIS MAJESTY LUCARIA.

I FEEL THAT WITH YOU HERE, EVERYTHING WILL SOMEHOW WORK OUT.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU CAME BACK SAFELY
ARE YOU TRYING TO COMFORT ME?
THINK IT OVER, SETSU.
That's what you get for saying something so pointless.
Your attitude irritates me!
OH...
DON'T BE SO FULL OF YOURSELF!
WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT SOMEONE WHO GETS UPSET OVER SOMETHING SMALL LIKE THIS?

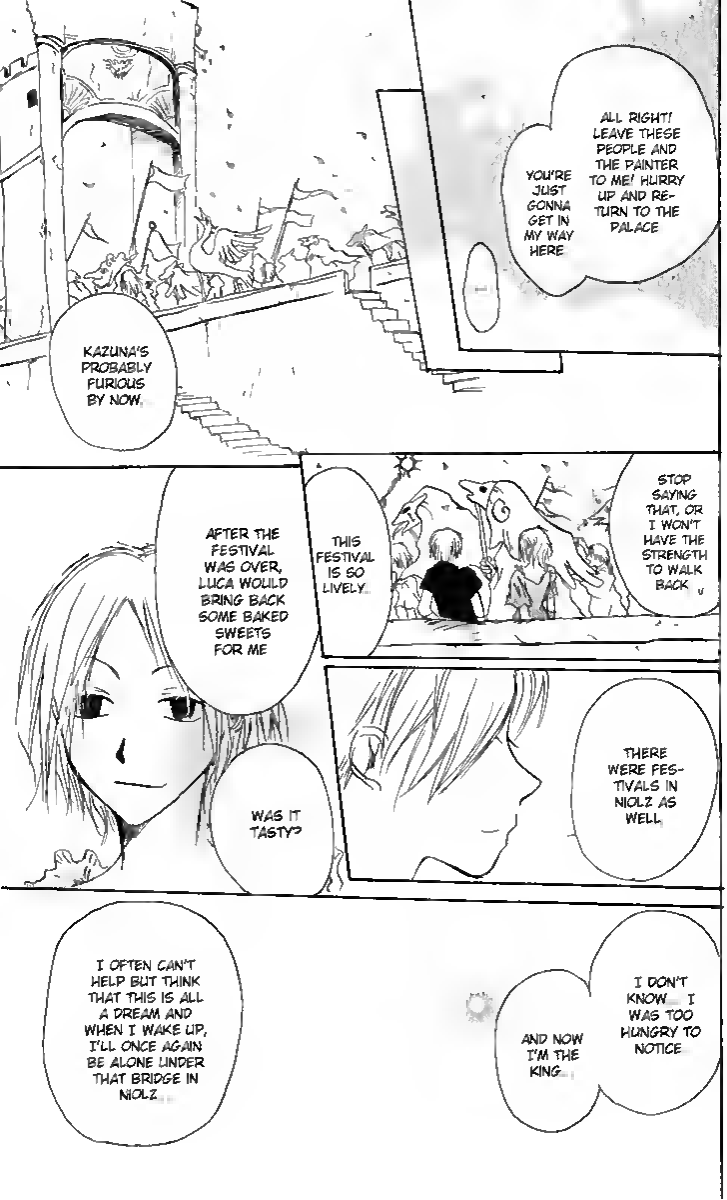
FLAP
GRAB
?!
WAH!
YOUR MAJESTY!
Dash
Dash
YOUR MAJESTY!
HURRY

scratch
clink
ARE THESE PEOPLE FROM THE BAJI FAMILY?
OR...
YOUR MAJESTY!
ARGH!
swoosh
thud
rustle

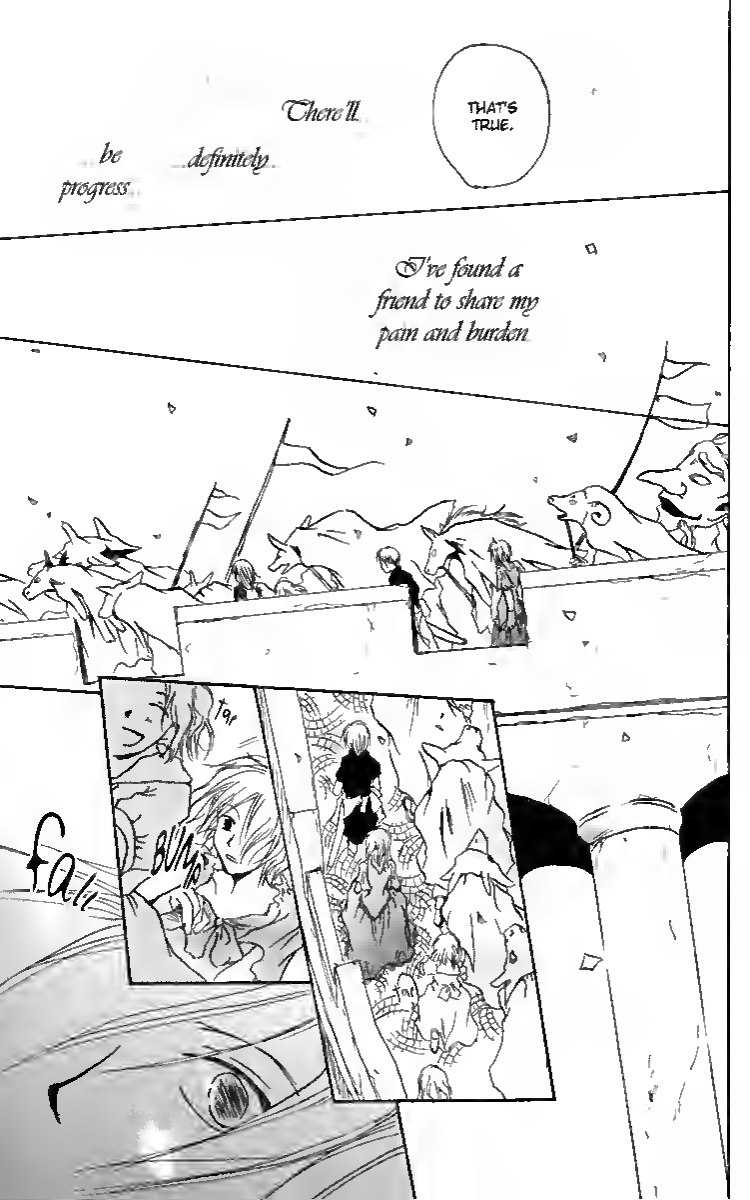
YOUR MAJESTY!
LAND
Whoosh
Clang

cough
cough
cough
cough
ste
ste
AH!
DID THE PARADE START ALREADY?
cough
cough
YOU GUYS NEED MORE TRAINING!
...
THESE PEOPLE ARE MORE SKILLED THAN THE ONES WE ENCOUNTERED BEFORE!
THAT WAS DANGEROUS!
THIS MEANS THE ENEMY IS SERIOUS ABOUT THIS...
cough
...

THANKS, DORII
ONCE EVERYTHING SETTLES DOWN, I'LL GIVE YOU ANY REWARD YOU WANT.
PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP US FIND LUCA
I ENVY HIM... WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THIS LUCA?
...
—


ALL RIGHT! LEAVE THESE PEOPLE AND THE PAINTER TO ME! HURRY UP AND RETURN TO THE PALACE
YOU'RE JUST GONNA GET IN MY WAY HERE
KAZUNA'S PROBABLY FURIOUS BY NOW.
STOP SAYING THAT, OR I WON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WALK BACK.
THIS FESTIVAL IS SO LIVELY.
AFTER THE FESTIVAL WAS OVER, LUCA WOULD BRING BACK SOME BAKED SWEETS FOR ME
THERE WERE FESTIVALS IN NIOLZ AS WELL.
WAS IT TASTY?
I DON'T KNOW... I WAS TOO HUNGRY TO NOTICE.
AND NOW I'M THE KING...
I OFTEN CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT THIS IS ALL A DREAM AND WHEN I WAKE UP, I'LL ONCE AGAIN BE ALONE UNDER THAT BRIDGE IN NIOLZ...

LUCA WOULD COME FIND ME
IF I WAS STILL THERE ...
BUT SOMETIMES I MISS THOSE TIMES
At times, I would close my eyes wishing this was all a dream
Even now after knowing what happened
During the five years of thinking about Luca,
THIS ISN'T A DREAM, YOUR MAJESTY
OUR SEARCH FOR LUCA IS REAL
SO IS OUR MEETING.


There'll be definitely progress
THAT'S TRUE.
I've found a friend to share my pain and burden
Tap
BUMP
Fall

WA—
GRAB

THANK YOU...
...
Thump
This feeling...
What's going on...?

Hmm
Hmm
Hmm
familiar
This feels so
That scar
BA
DUMP
SETSU ?!

HUH?!
SETSU! WHAT IS IT?!
THAT GUY WITH THE MASK...
HE SEEMS

I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT, BUT...
...HE SEEMS VERY MUCH LIKE LUCA...
Sh
...!
YOUR MAJESTY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
YOUR MAJESTY !
WAIT...!

KAZUNA...!
!
KAZUNA!
THAT GUY...! GRAB THAT GUY WITH THE MASK!
Ash
STAY BACK, KAZUNA!

!
KA-

AFTER HIM...!
KAZUNA!
...
KAZUNA...
THIS IS THE KING'S ORDER!
AFTER HIM!

GO AFTER HIM!
KAZUNA!

SCARLET CHAIR VOLUME 2 / END

Afterword

Thanks everyone for keeping up with the story so far. There are some behind the scene information coming up, so please continue reading!

Maid Outfit at Lady Kiet's Residence

Quite a simple design.

Castle Maid Outfit

In order to entertain the guests, the design is comparatively fancier

Guard Outfit of Begi

The top is a handsome fit. In order to make it seem like there are more people, the outer layer is designed to dance in the wind. (According to Begi)

Castle Guard Outfit

The top is loose. Because of the guests, it is relatively more extravagant.

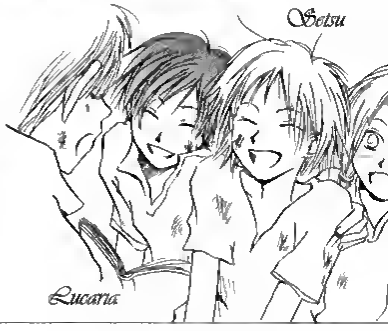
Thanks to everyone, "The Scarlet Hair" is able to advance to a second volume. I feel so fortunate. Because it's a bi-monthly publication, the characters' motivation, the pages, and so forth must be determined each time, which makes me quite nervous. Of course, thanks to the patient editor and you guys, the readers, I'm able to successfully focus on my work.

I will work hard to make my drawing more interesting, so please continue to support me. Every time I'm drawing, I always remind myself, "I just need to have a good grip of the main subject and prevent the characters from going off into tangents." I feel that this work gives me a great deal of freedom, so I'm able to draw with a relaxed, lighthearted mood. I'm really glad for this. Despite encountering many setbacks while working on this, I'm still really passionate and energetic about it because it deals with a subject that I like. Since there are extra pages left, I want to try to write down my thoughts over ART 46. There's a lot I want to write, but sometimes, I can't seem to put them down on paper. Nevertheless, this challenge, in itself, becomes a kind of enjoyment for me!

See you next time!

Regarding ACT 4

Recently someone asked me if I really like masks. I don't mean to emphasize it, but I guess I like the idea of having a hidden side! Thinking of designs is entertaining for me. I like to use sharp, pointy types or rounded designs



Whenever I draw Setsu and His Majesty alone together, I'm always really nervous. These two are companions, but their relationship is more complicated than just that. There is clearly a bit of jealousy between them. But, sometimes, when I think about them separately, I feel uneasy because I feel that in some ways, the two of them are actually the same person.

Regarding ACT 5

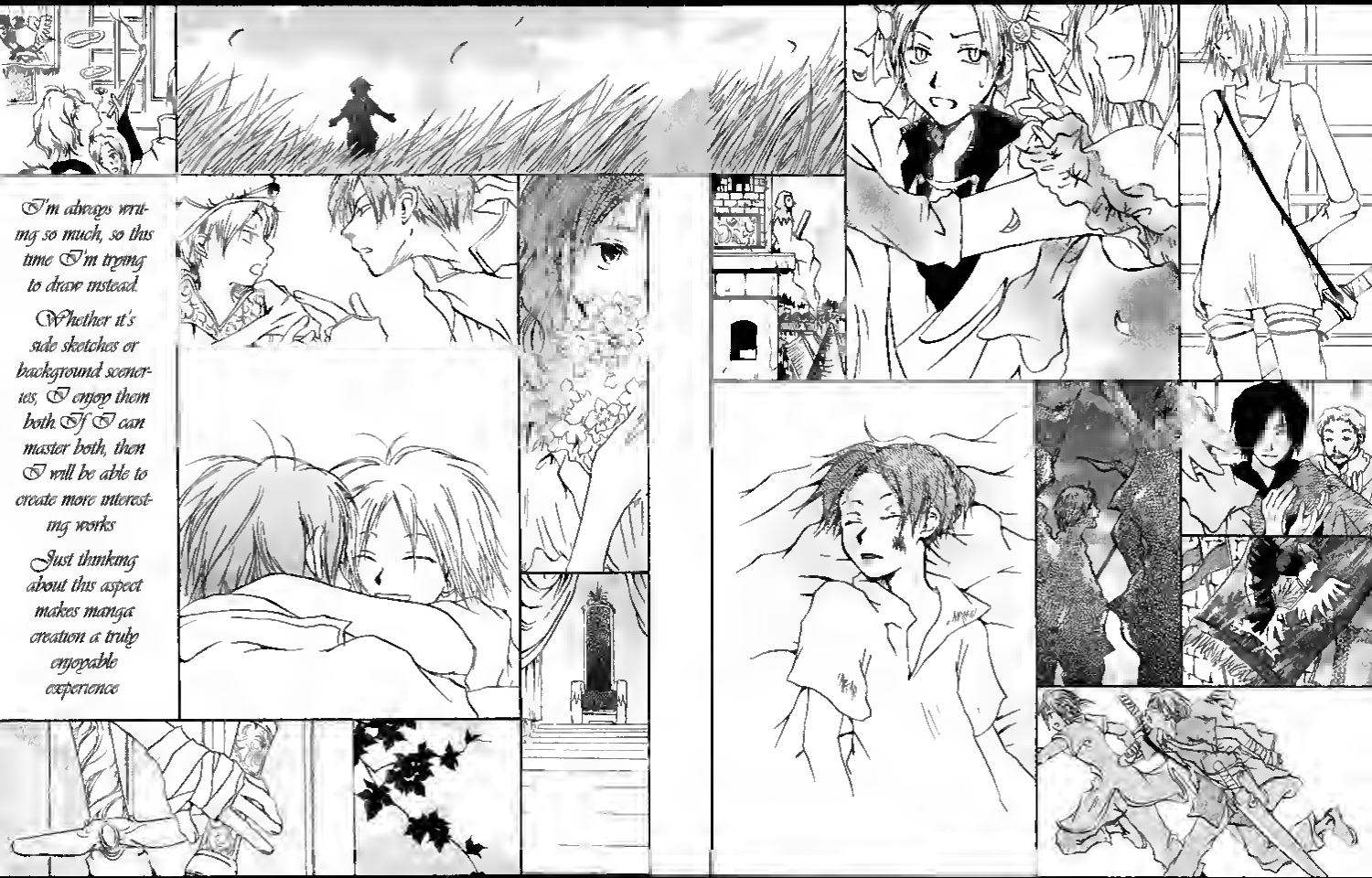
Math, reading, swordplay... Setsu probably learned everything from Luca. Since she can't swim, that also means Luca can't swim. Luca's image on the hill seems really godly (full of himself?), but if he falls in the water, he will drown. The same goes for Setsu. (On the other hand, it's dangerous for His Majesty just to be on the hill.)

I'm really glad to have drawn Doru and Kulea. On the one hand, Kulea looks down upon the current wretched state of her childhood playmate Doru, on the other, she envies his freedom. In this work, every character has a lot of background, which really made me learn a lot. It'll be great if I can change my bad habit of sidetracking from the characters' involvement with the story every time I feel troubled.

Regarding ACT 6

When I'm drawing "Scarlet," I'm constantly situated on top of a hot pot with cold water being poured in or in a state of constantly changing focus. It's not until this part that I truly got into the right mindset. I'm really shy, so I haven't been able to gather up enough courage to open up to a discussion of the contents. But for my future, this is my first time talking about it in detail with the editor.

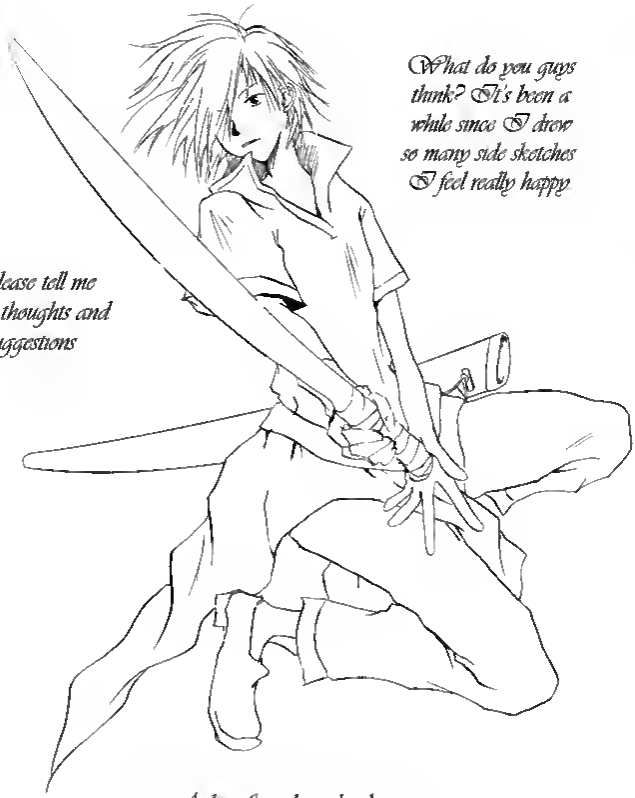
Even though the process was a bit difficult, I enjoyed drawing everything. Since I'm from the countryside, I was particularly excited when drawing Setsu entering the capital. Also, I found it enjoyable to draw the character Lady Kira. Now thinking back on it, I realize that the number of male to female characters isn't balanced! In order to keep bringing pain and suffering, I can't help but to choose male characters. Be sure to count Setsu as one of the girl characters.



I'm always writing so much, so this time I'm trying to draw instead.

Whether it's side sketches or background sceneries, I enjoy them both. If I can master both, then I will be able to create more interesting works.

Just thinking about this aspect makes manga creation a truly enjoyable experience.



What do you guys think? It's been a while since I drew so many side sketches I feel really happy

Please tell me your thoughts and suggestions

A list of people to thank. Sumioka-sama, Satou-sama, the editing department, Ooki Tamao-sama, Ohka-sama, my big sister, everyone who helped me, and the readers Thank you guys so much.

Well then, see you guys next time

SCARLET CHAIR 2 / END

The Scarlet Chair

by Midorikawa Yuki

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